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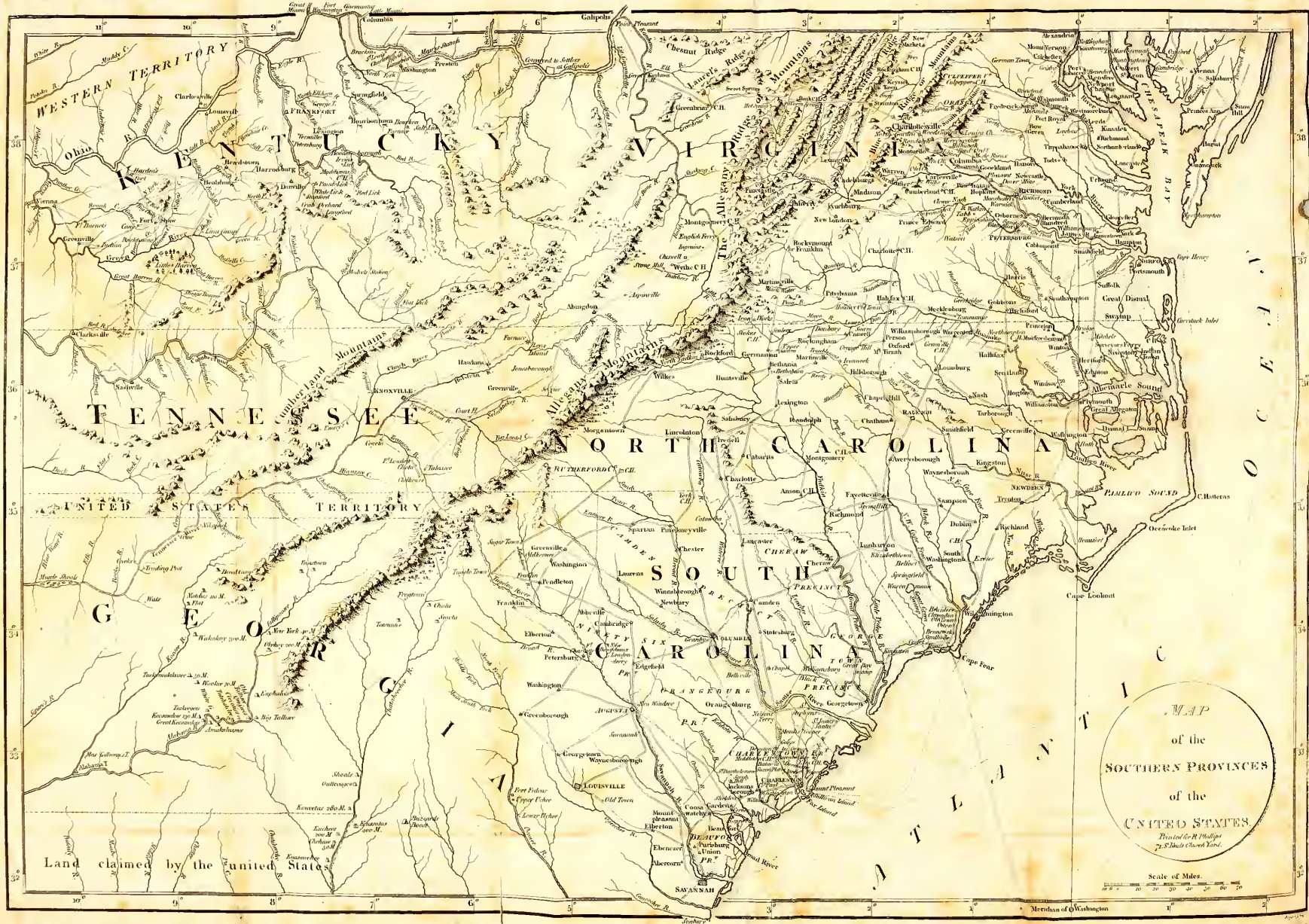
MAP
of the
SOUTHERN PROVINCES
of the
UNITED STATES.
Printed for R. Phillips
71 St. Pauls Church Yard.
Scale of Miles.
Land claimed by the united States
WESTERN TERRITORY
KENTUCKY
VIRGINIA
TENNESSEE
NORTH CAROLINA
SOUTH CAROLINA
GEORGIA
UNITED STATES TERRITORY
ATLANTIC OCEAN
Cumberland Mountains
Allegany Mountains
The Allegany Ridge of Mountains
Chesnut Ridge
Laurel's Ridge
Ohio R.
Cape Fear
Cape Lookout
Ocean Inlet
Albemarle Sound
Great Dismal Swamp
Pamlico Sound
Chesapeak Bay
Cape Henry
Meridian of Washington

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88
33
32
n of Washington
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TRAVELS

THROUGH

THE UNITED STATES

OF

NORTH AMERICA,

THE

COUNTRY OF THE IROQUOIS,

AND

UPPER CANADA,

IN THE YEARS 1795, 1796, AND 1797;

WITH AN AUTHENTIC ACCOUNT OF LOWER CANADA.

BY THE

DUKE DE LA ROCHEFOUCAULT
LIANCOURT.

VOL. III.

LONDON:

Printed by T. Davison, Lombard-Street, White-Friars,
FOR R. PHILLIPS, NO. 71, ST. PAUL'S CHURCH-YARD;
SOLD BY T. HURST AND J. WALLIS, PATERNOSTER-ROW, AND
BY CARPENTER AND CO. OLD BOND-STREET.

1799.

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TRAVELS

THROUGH THE

UNITED STATES OF NORTH AMERICA

CANADA, &c.

IN THE YEARS 1795, 1796, AND 1797.

PASSAGE FROM CHARLESTON TO NORFOLK.

THERE do not frequently occur opportunities of obtaining a paſſage from Charleſton to Norfolk: the ſeaſon was too far advanced to admit of travelling on horſeback through North-Carolina, and making in that ſtate a ſufficiently long ſtay to acquire good information. After having waited a week for a veſſel to convey me to Virginia, I had engaged a birth in a ſloop: but my Charleſton friends thought it too much encumbered with paſſengers to allow of my being conveniently accommodated on board, beſides its being indifferently equipped; and Mr. Grant,

one of thoſe gentlemen from whom I had experienced the greateſt civilities at Charleſton, invited me to give the preference to a ſmall veſſel that was conſigned to him, which belonged to one of his friends at Norfolk, and which was to ſail in two days. This veſſel was not to be laden, to carry no other paſſengers than the owner's nephew and myſelf, and to take us in three days to Norfolk. Although I diſliked the veſſel on account of her ſmall ſize, as ſhe was but of twenty-nine tons burden, yet the advantage of the other circumſtances counterbalanced that objection, and I thankfully accepted the offer: but, inſtead of ſailing at the expiration of two days, ſhe was delayed ſix days longer: inſtead of having no cargo, ſhe was laden with caſks of rice even to the very cabin: inſtead of a ſingle fellow-paſſenger, there were four: inſtead of being a good ſailer, ſhe was as ſlow as a Dutch dogger: the captain was ignorant, lazy, careleſs, and unacquainted with the difficult coaſt of North-Carolina.

At length, after having encountered the moſt ſerious dangers on the ſhoals of Cape Fear and Cape Lookout, which we ought to have

have left at the diſtance of thirty miles; after having had one of our maſts four times ſhattered by the ſeverity of the weather; after having run aground during the night on a bank in Cheſapeak-Bay, from which we extricated ourſelves with difficulty at the expence of four hours' ſevere labour; after having eſcaped from ſeveral other perils to which the ignorance and neglect of our captain had expoſed us; and after a moſt unpleaſant voyage of eleven days, we arrived at Norfolk on the 29th of May.

Thus it often happens that the event is far from correſponding with the meaſures planned by prudent foreſight: but inconveniences and dangers are nothing when they are paſſed; and thoſe attached to ſea-voyages leave a leſs ſtrong impreſſion on the mind than any other. Beſides, on ſea, danger does not ſubject the paſſenger to any laborious exertions: for in that ſituation, beyond all others, he is compelled to acknowledge himſelf ſubject to the ſway of uncontrollable neceſſity. His condition, however, is not on that account the more agreeable; far from it: but it affords a ſort of melancholy conſolation to a man

already fatigued with untoward events, and prediſpoſed to bear with patience thoſe further croſſes of which he is deſtined to be the ſport.

On my paſſage I learned that our little veſſel belonged to Colonel H****, the Britiſh conſul, and principal of one of the moſt opulent commercial houſes in Norfolk, which, however, does not bear his name, but that of his nephew, Thomas H****: for by the laws of England, and thoſe of every nation who wiſh that the duty of their envoy ſhould be the primary object of his attention, a conſul is not allowed to carry on any ſpecies of commerce in the country where he is employed. But Colonel H****, like ſo many others, thus eludes that regulation, and employs his capital on his own account under the firm of his nephew, which he directs as completely as if he were the avowed principal in the buſineſs. It was with Mr. Morgan —who is not the colonel's relative as Mr. Grant had informed me, but one of the perſons employed under him for the affairs of the conſulate—that I ſailed: and from his converſation I had a new opportunity of obſerving

ſerving how uniformly all thoſe who are employed by the * * * * miniſtry, and all ſuch as have imbibed their principles, ſpeak of the Americans with averſion and contempt. Such a diſpoſition on their part ſeems as little likely to furniſh motives that ſhould render palatable the late treaty of amity and commerce, as the articles of the treaty itſelf.

Since the revolution, * * * * has nominated, for her conſuls in the United States, Americans who had been proſcribed in their native country for having taken part in oppoſition to the cauſe of independence; ſhe has ſent thither, as her miniſters, men the moſt violent in their opinions, and in their diſcourſes againſt the American nation. In the midſt of peace ſhe ſeizes her ſhips, and preſſes her ſailors; ſhe renews theſe outrages with additional violence at the very moment of concluding the treaty of alliance; and the American government teſtifies no reſentment of ſuch proceedings. When we ſee, as is the caſe at the preſent period, that morality and honeſty are utterly diſregarded in politics, it is eaſy to account for the conduct of

* * * * in this particular; but that of the American rulers is wholly unaccountable.

In ſailing out of Charleſton-Bay, we croſſed the bar by the north paſſage, near Sullivan's Iſland: this is the narroweſt and ſhalloweſt of all the paſſages; but it was more than ſufficiently deep for our purpoſe: we had a good pilot on board: and thus with perfect ſafety we abridged our courſe by a dozen of miles. A few days before, a ſhip from Jamaica, a valuable prize taken by a French privateer, had been loſt through the miſmanagement of a drunken pilot, who ran her aground in conducting her through the middle paſſage, which is the deepeſt of all. The nature of the ſand which compoſes the bank is ſuch, that in a few hours, it ſwallows up whatever touches upon it, and that the ſhip in queſtion, from which only a few bales of coffee could be ſaved, totally diſappeared in twelve hours, hull and maſts, ſo that not a veſtige of her was any longer to be diſcovered.

ENTRANCE

ENTRANCE INTO ELIZABETH-RIVER.

Thoſe veſſels which, as was the caſe with ours, are bound for Norfolk, ſteer to the left after they have paſſed between Cape Henry and Cape Charles, which form the entrance of the Cheſapeak. On Cape Henry is erected a fort which is ſeen from a great diſtance. Behind it, and oppoſite to the entrance of this vaſt bay, and a little to the left, is Hampton-Road. We approached within ſight of it in order to gain Elizabeth-River, after having paſſed by the mouths of James and Nanſemond Rivers.

STATE OF VIRGINIA.—NORFOLK AND PORTSMOUTH.

Norfolk is built on Elizabeth-River, at nine miles from the ſpot where it diſcharges its waters into the bay. In the intervening ſpace there are few houſes, and thoſe few almoſt all preſent a wretched appearance. An almoſt uninterrupted ſucceſſion of pines are the only object which meets the voyager's

eye. Erancy Iſland lies nearly in the middle of the river at a ſhort diſtance above its mouth. Two points of land, which approach within a quarter of a mile of each other in front of Norfolk, are ſtrengthened with forts which are capable of ſucceſsfully defending the entrance. That on the Norfolk ſide is in better condition than the other, which, however, might be ſpeedily repaired, and at no great expence.

The town of Norfolk was entirely burned at the commencement of the war, by order of Lord Dunmore, who was at that time governor of Virginia for the king of England. Not a ſingle houſe remained ſtanding: and the damage was eſtimated at a million and half of dollars. The Engliſh who now inhabit the town, aſhamed of that act of barbarity, aſſert that Lord Dunmore gave orders only for the burning of the warehouſes on the wharfs, for the purpoſe of facilitating the defence of the place, and that it was the Americans themſelves who burned the remainder of the town by order of the committee of ſafety of the legiſlature of Virginia. It is not forgotten how a few years ago the Jacobins

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in France ſaid that the ariſtocrats were themſelves the perſons who ſet fire to their own *châteaux*. Party-animoſity prompts men to advance the groſſeſt abſurdities, and cauſes them to be believed even by thoſe who relate them.—Mankind are every where the ſame:—an obſervation, of which the truth is univerſally acknowledged.

Portſmouth, a ſmall aſſemblage of houſes on the oppoſite ſide of the river, did not ſhare in the conflagration of Norfolk. From its ſituation it ſeemed entitled to expect all the commerce of Elizabeth-River: at its quays the greateſt depth of water is found: at the higheſt tides, it is there twelve feet deep, whereas it is only ſix at Norfolk: the pump-water at the former place is not brackiſh, as at the latter: the ſoil on which the town is built is more dry, and the air more ſalubrious. But, at the concluſion of the peace, the inhabitants being incenſed againſt the Engliſh, refuſed to admit any merchant of that nation, or any new-comer whoſe political principles were liable to ſuſpicion. To this rancorous diſpoſition was attributed a political motive of a leſs generous kind—

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an apprehenſion on the part of the American merchants who had remained at Portſmouth, leſt the new traders who might come to ſettle among them, ſhould, by the advantage of bringing in greater capitals than they themſelves poſſeſſed, be enabled to outdo them in the line of commerce.

However this may be, the conſequence has been, that the inhabitants have removed to the oppoſite ſide; that Norfolk has been rebuilt, and that its trade is twenty times more conſiderable than that of Portſmouth: nay, the few merchants who ſtill reſide in the latter town, purchaſe at Norfolk almoſt all the articles that conſtitute their cargoes, and ſome of them even have their compting-houſes there.

Portſmouth, which, in a very great ſpace, contains at preſent only about a hundred houſes, and whoſe ſtreets run in very ſtraight lines, wears the appearance rather of a town recently traced out than of one already built. A ſmall market is held there, but it is indifferently ſupplied: there is alſo an epiſcopalian church, a tolerably handſome building, in which, as in all the churches of Georgia, Carolina,

Carolina, and Virginia, a peculiar ſtation is allotted to the negroes, who are not allowed to mingle with the whites.

At the cloſe of the year eighty-three there were not yet twelve houſes rebuilt at Norfolk: at preſent the number is between ſeven and eight hundred. It is one of the ugliеſt, moſt irregular, and moſt filthy towns that can any-where be found. The houſes are low and unſightly, almoſt all conſtructed of wood, and erected without any attention to make them regularly line with each other; not twenty of them are built of brick. The ſtreets are unpaved: the town is ſurrounded by ſwamps: the naſtineſs and ſtench which prevail in it are exceſſive, and add to the natural inſalubrity of the ſituation, and of the climate which is extremely hot. The magiſtrates, it is ſaid, have ſometimes attempted to introduce into the place a greater degree of order, and eſpecially of cleanlineſs: but theſe regulations have not been attended to; and nobody is any longer willing to act as magiſtrate.

From theſe concurrent ſources of unhealthineſs it reſults that diſeaſes are habitual at Norfolk

Norfolk in ſummer and autumn, and that malignant epidemics are there frequent. Laſt year the yellow fever is ſaid to have carried off there five hundred perſons from a population of four thouſand. Three hundred died at the time the diſtemper prevailed; the others fell victims to its conſequences. The inhabitants of Norfolk, even thoſe among them who are the moſt opulent, fancy that the uſe of wine and ſtrong liquors furniſhes them with a preſervative againſt the inſalubrity of the climate; and they make liberal uſe of the remedy. Previous to the war, the town is ſaid to have contained eight thouſand inhabitants.

Norfolk carries on a conſiderable trade with Europe, the Antilles, and the Northern ſtates. Her exports are wheat, flour, Indian corn, timber of every kind, particularly planks, ſtaves, and ſhingles, ſalt meat and fiſh, iron, lead, flax-ſeed, tobacco, tar, turpentine, hemp. All theſe articles are the produce of Virginia, or of North-Carolina, which latter ſtate, having no ſea-ports, or none that are good, makes her exportations principally through thoſe of Virginia.

Norfolk

Norfolk is the only port for the ſouthern part of this extenſive ſtate: for, as no veſſels above the burden of a hundred or a hundred and twenty tons can go up to Peterſburg or Richmond, the produce of the back country which is brought to thoſe places by land, is for the moſt part ſent down in lighters to Norfolk, whence it is exported. Thus, this port almoſt ſingly carries on all the commerce of that part of Virginia which lies ſouth of the Rappahannoc, and of North-Carolina far beyond the Roanoke.

They are at preſent forming a canal, which, paſſing through the Diſmal-Swamp, is to unite the waters of the ſouth branch of Elizabeth-River, or rather of Dup-Creek which falls into it, with Albemarle-Sound, by the river Paſkotank, and which will thus conſiderably ſhorten and facilitate the communication between North-Carolina and Norfolk. This canal, to which the two legiſlatures of North-Carolina and Virginia have ſeverally given their ſanction, is carried on by ſubſcription: it is three years ſince it was begun; and in three years more it is expected to be finiſhed. It is to be twenty-eight miles in length, and

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to run through a ſoil which is ſaid to be very favourable for the purpoſe, and eaſily worked. Five miles of it are already dug on the Virginia ſide, which I examined with ſome care, and thought very well executed: the ſame length is alſo dug on the ſide of North-Carolina. The Diſmal-Swamp has leſs ſolidity than any other which I have ever yet ſeen: but the earth which is dug for the paſſage of the canal, hardens in the air, and makes an excellent dike.

What muſt appear very ſurprizing, is, that, for this canal which already ſeems in ſuch a ſtate of forwardneſs, no levels have been taken. It is not yet known what number of locks may be neceſſary, and even whether any will be requiſite: conſequently it is impoſſible to aſcertain what may be the expence of completing it, or even whether the ſucceſs of the undertaking can be depended on. It is thus almoſt all the public works are carried on in America, where there is a total want of men of talents in the arts, and where ſo many able men, who are perhaps at this moment unemployed in Europe, might to a certainty make their fortunes at the ſame time that they

they were rendering eſſential ſervice to the country.

The exportations from Norfolk amounted, in 1791, to 1,028,789 dollars—in 1792, to 1,147,414—in 1793, to 1,045,525—in 1794, to 1,687,194—in 1795, to 1,934,827—and already to 1,088,105 dollars for the firſt quarter of the current year (1796). When we conſider the increaſe in the exports for ſome years back, we muſt recollect that the difference is much more conſiderable in the value than in the quantity. The neceſſities of Europe have more than doubled the price: and although it be certainly a fact that the clearing of new grounds augments the quantum of produce, that augmentation bears no proportion to the difference of value preſented by the tables for three years back, ſent in from the different cuſtom-houſes. In giving a combined view of the details of the exportation of the three principal articles of the produce of the country for the laſt five years, I furniſh an additional proof of my aſſertion.

QUANTITIES.

QUANTITIES.	YEARS.				
	1791.	1792.	1793.	1794.	1795.
Barrels of Flour	35,071	45,909	52,836	78,981	66,527
Buſhels of Indian Corn . . .	341,984	286,834	258,735	211,313	442,075
Caſks of Naval Stores . . .	29,376	44,665	26,753	23,286	14,704
VALUE OF THOSE ARTICLES.	Dollars.	Dollars.	Dollars.	Dollars.	Dollars.
Flour	191,639	242,357	296,415	436,352	629,384
Indian Corn	120,733	104 977	154,264	105,661	172,499
Naval Stores	52,333	62,631	45,014	45,504	33,111

Thus we ſee that a barrel of flour, whoſe medium value in 1791 was five dollars and fifty-five cents, in 1792 five dollars and three cents, in 1793 five dollars and fifteen cents, in 1794 five dollars and fifty-ſix cents, roſe in 1795 to nine dollars and thirty-five cents; and that Indian corn, which is an article of only ſecondary demand, was at thirty-ſeven cents.

cents the bushel in 1791, at fifty-four in 1792, at sixty-one in 1793, at fifty-one in 1794, and at sixty-six in 1795.

The comparative table of the prices of timber for the five preceding years exhibits the same augmentation of price.

Years.	Hogshead Staves				Barrel Staves, per thousand.		Heading, per thousand.		Boards, per hundred feet.		Shingles, per thousand.		Square timber, per hundred feet.	
	White Oak, per thousand.		Red Oak, per thousand.											
	Doll.	Cents.	Doll.	Cents.	Doll.	Cents.	Doll.	Cents.	Doll.	Cents.	Doll.	Cents.	Doll.	Cents.
1791.	16.	66	11.	66	„	33	20.	„	1.	50	2.	„	12.	„
1792.	16.	56	13.	50	10.	„	20.	„	1.	50	2.	„	12.	„
1793.	16.	66	15.	„	10.	„	20.	„	1.	50	2.	„	12.	„
1794.	20.	„	15.	„	10.	„	20.	„	2.	„	2.	50	12.	„
1795.	20.	15	14.	50	10.	„	25.	„	2.	50	3.	„	13.	„

With respect to the naval stores, as they consist of various articles extremely different in value, and as I am not furnished with the particulars,

I cannot ſubject the amount of the general eſtimates to the ſame compariſon as thoſe of the wheat, Indian corn, and timber.

Excluſive of the flour exported from Norfolk, there is drawn from the ſtate, through that and other ports, a great quantity of wheat, which is taken by the merchants of Philadelphia and New-York, or the millers of Brandiwine, who manufacture it into flour which they export to Europe. Good mills are not very common in Virginia; and the want of capitals to erect a ſufficient number of them does not allow the Virginians to enjoy the great advantages ariſing from the manufacture of flour, which they have hitherto reſigned to the other ſtates. The high price of wheat this year, and the hope that it would riſe ſtill higher, have kept in Virginia a conſiderable quantity of that commodity: and, in conſequence of this ſpeculation, which the preſent ſtate of the market ſhews to have been ill-founded, the planters and the millers have on hand a greater ſtock of the article than they have ever had in the preceding years at the ſame ſeaſon.

The ſame is the caſe with reſpect to the

tonnage

tonnage of the different American ports; its increaſe is in great meaſure owing to the circumſtances of the war, which render the American bottoms the only vehicles that afford any tolerable ſecurity for the tranſportation of thoſe articles of American produce of which Europe and the colonies ſtand in need, and confine in their own ports the merchant ſhips of France, England, Holland, &c. until the return of peace. Ten years ago, Norfolk could not reckon ten large veſſels of her own; whereas at preſent ſhe poſſeſſes fifty of that deſcription, excluſive of fifty others of ſmaller ſize particularly employed in the trade to the Weſt-Indies. Under the name of Norfolk are to be underſtood Norfolk and Portſmouth; for thoſe two places, though otherwiſe diſtinct, conſtitute but a ſingle port of entry, and are both ſubject to the ſame cuſtom-houſe. The preſent tonnage of Norfolk is 15,567 tons, excluſive of the veſſels employed in the coaſting trade.

The danger of ſmuggling which might be carried on by veſſels coming from foreign countries, and diſcharging their cargoes in James or York-River, induced the congreſs

to enact a law prohibiting veſſels bound to Richmond, Peterſburg, or York-Town, from entering thoſe rivers without having on board a cuſtom-houſe-officer, whom the captain comes or ſends for to Norfolk. This precaution, which operates as a partial check on that illicit trade, does not however entirely repreſs it; and I have been aſſured that it is carried on to a conſiderable amount along the ſhores of the Cheſapeak, notwithſtanding the vigilance of two ſmall veſſels belonging to the government of the Union, which are conſtantly cruiſing with a view to prevent it.

The exportation of tobacco from Norfolk has, by the diminution of the culture of that article in Virginia, been reduced above one third within the laſt five years. In 1793, it amounted to 15,002 hogſheads—in 1794, to 11,052—and in 1795, to 9,968. I have not been able to procure an accurate ſtatement of the quantities exported in 1791 and 1792.

Many Engliſh commercial houſes are eſtabliſhed at Norfolk; and the merchants of that nation hate the Americans here as well as throughout almoſt the whole of the United States. They break out into invectives, and

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are laviſh of contemptuous expreſſions, againſt the country which enriches them. We ought never to wonder at the effects of prejudice and paſſion: yet, in order to account for this prepoſterous conduct, it is neceſſary to recollect that the generality of thoſe merchants, who are but the agents of different houſes in England, are men utterly deſtitute of education: for the better ſort of Engliſh merchants eſtabliſhed in America are not guilty of ſuch blameable conduct.

The animoſity of the Engliſh merchants reſiding at Norfolk is further exaſperated by the preſence of a conſul who is a native of America, a loyaliſt, who bore arms againſt his country during the war between the colonies and Britain, and who, in addition to the politics of the Britiſh cabinet, feels the ſpur of perſonal reſentment for the confiſcations he has ſuffered. Public opinion however is unanimous in his favour with reſpect to his conduct in the war, which was very different from that of ſeveral officers who ſo ſtrikingly derogated from the honourable character which the Engliſh nation is generally allowed to poſſeſs.

This year England procured from Virginia a number of horſes to mount the cavalry which ſhe propoſed to ſend to the French iſlands; and thoſe ſupplies, which at every former period had always been conſidered as warlike ſtores, were by the American miniſtry accounted ordinary merchandize: conſequently their exportation was authorized by law, notwithſtanding the remonſtrances of the French conſul. But fortune has not proved ſo favourable to the Britiſh plans as the council of the United States: for, of four hundred horſes already ſhipped off, only one hundred and fifty lived to reach the place of their deſtination, and arrived there in bad condition. A veſſel which had about a hundred on board did not preſerve a ſingle one of the number. The precautions, taken for the tranſportation of three hundred more that yet remain at Norfolk, being the ſame as thoſe adopted with reſpect to the former, the ſame reſult muſt inevitably enſue; and the ſame will probably be the fate of five hundred others now purchaſing in North-Carolina.

If the circle of Engliſh merchants and the creatures

creatures of the conſul at Norfolk indulge in angry invective againſt the Americans and the party attached to France, the merchants and other members of the community who have embraced the contrary party, ſupport with equal warmth: ſo that nought but diviſion reigns at Norfolk in conſequence. But the prevailing opinion there is in favour of the French. This warmth of animoſity, as much as the unhealthineſs of the climate, retards the increaſe of Norfolk, where few new merchants come to ſettle, notwithſtanding its advantageous ſituation for commerce. It cannot however be doubted that the temptation held out by the hope of making a fortune will ſooner or later counterbalance thoſe inconveniences, as it has, in the caſe of thoſe merchants who are already ſettled there, prevailed over the probability of diſeaſes.—I have every-where heard the Preſident of the United States mentioned with great reſpect.

In all Virginia there is but a ſingle bank eſtabliſhed—that of Alexandria, which conſequently affords to the commerce of Norfolk no other aid than that of its paper, which in every part of the ſtate is accepted as caſh,

when indorſed with a good name. In Norfolk there are not many opulent houſes, very few whoſe commercial enterprizes are of conſiderable magnitude, but ſeveral that carry on trade to a more limited extent.

Agriculture can hardly be ſaid to exiſt in Norfolk-County, or in that of Princeſs Ann, which borders on it. Theſe two counties do indeed produce ſome Indian corn; but the lands would, from their nature, require great attention and labour to render them productive of good crops, eſpecially along the borders of the Cheſapeak and the ſea-coaſt. The landed property is much divided; and the inhabitants, who in general are not in very eaſy circumſtances, devote themſelves rather to the felling of timber than to the cultivation of the ſoil. Scarcely does the ſize of their gardens exceed half a ſcore perches: they cut down trees on their own lands and wherever elſe they find them of any value; and they ſquander their whole earnings on ſtrong liquors, as is the practice with all thoſe who lead that kind of life. Yet they are in the habit of gaining above a dollar per day, deduction being made for the conveyance of

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the timber to the river-ſide; and the expence of this tranſportation is about one half of the value of the article thus tranſported. This timber is purchaſed by merchants at Norfolk, who derive a conſiderable profit either from the employment or reſale of it.

The plantations in the interior parts of theſe counties, being ſomewhat better cultivated than the borders of the ſea or of the rivers, furniſh the Norfolk market with ſalt beef and pork in ſufficient quantity even for exportation.

In all theſe parts, land is ſold at from ſix to ſeven dollars per acre; and often the value of the timber which it offers for the axe amounts to four or five times the price of the original purchaſe.

From eighty to ninety veſſels of different dimenſions are annually built at Norfolk. The price of building is, for the hull on coming from the hands of the carpenter, twenty-four dollars per ton for thoſe of above a hundred and twenty tons. Ready for ſea, they coſt from forty-ſeven to fifty dollars per ton. The prices have riſen above one fourth during the laſt three years. The ſhipwright's

wages

wages are two dollars and three quarters per day.—Veſſels of inferior dimenſions are much cheaper. A conſiderable number of them are ſold at Philadelphia, and to great advantage. —Theſe ſmall veſſels are conſtructed for quick ſailing: but this port, in common with almoſt all thoſe of the Cheſapeak, labours under the inconvenience of worms which attack the veſſels from June to September, and do them material injury.

The vicinity of Norfolk is abundantly productive of workmen of every kind—of ſailors, of ſea captains—and Virginia is not in this reſpect dependent on the Northern ſtates, as are Carolina and Georgia. There is at Norfolk a tolerably good ſchool for boys, but it is lately eſtabliſhed: it is what is commonly called a grammar-ſchool. Forty dollars per annum is the ſum paid for each pupil. There is no ſchool for girls, except thoſe where they learn to read: and ſuch parents as wiſh to give their daughters any further education, ſend them to Williamſburg or Baltimore.

The courts of the juſtices of the peace for the police of the city and its environs are held at Norfolk; the county-court is held at Suffolk,

Suffolk, another town about eight miles distant from the former. The prisons are small, and ill conducted: there is no walk for the prisoners: they are fed by the jailor, who receives for each a shilling per day.

The market at Norfolk is held every day, but it is not well furnished. The beef, however, is better here than at Charleston: it costs ten pence the pound; mutton, veal, &c. a shilling; flour, fourteen dollars the barrel. A common workman is paid a dollar per day, besides his board. The cord of fire-wood costs three dollars; hickory-wood, half a dollar additional. The hire of a negro is from eight to ten dollars per month. The medium rate of house-rent is two hundred and thirty dollars. The price of lots in the town is from nine to ten dollars the foot in front, on a depth of seventy feet. Fish is very abundant in the river and the bay. The Virginia currency is six shillings to the dollar, ten dollars making three pounds.

Mr. Plume, a native of Ireland, an active and intelligent man, who settled at Norfolk before the American war, conducts there a tannery and rope-walk, in which he employs as

as workmen his own negroes. He manufactures to a large amount, furniſhes a great part of the cordage conſumed in the port, and ſends his leather to every part of America. He procures almoſt all his hemp from the back parts of Virginia; the remainder he derives from Ruſſia. The latter, without being ſtronger than that of Virginia, is more eaſily wrought, and more readily receives the dreſſing. The country ſupplies Mr. Plume nearly with all the hides he has occaſion for: he nevertheleſs gets ſome from the heretofore Spaniſh part of Saint-Domingo.

It was intended that Norfolk ſhould build one of the ſix frigates of which the United States had determined to compoſe their marine: but, ſubſequent conſiderations having influenced the Congreſs to adopt the reſolution of reducing the number to three inſtead of ſix that were voted two years ago, the other three frigates have been countermanded. That which was to have been built at Norfolk is among the number of the latter: it was begun at Goſport, a ſmall dependency of Portſmouth, where there are dock-yards for the conſtruction of the largeſt veſſels. I

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have ſeen the beginning of the intended conſtruction: only the keel and ſome of the principal ribs are put together: but the timber neceſſary for completing the work is almoſt entirely collected on the ſpot, where it lies without workmen and without protection. It is confidently aſſerted that this collection of fine timber, which has not been procured without conſiderable trouble, and eſpecially an enormous expence, is going to be ſold. It might, one would think, be much more advantageouſly preſerved for the uſe of the United States, who appear, by this order for its ſale, diſpoſed to preclude themſelves from even the poſſibility of reverting to their former reſolution.

The communication between Norfolk and Portſmouth is continual: it is carried on by ſix row-boats belonging to a company, and by three ſcows in which horſes and carriages are conveniently ferried over. The fare for each paſſenger is one-ſixteenth of a dollar: but, on paying ſix dollars, a perſon may become free of the paſſage for twelve months. Theſe boats are managed by negroes belonging to the company. It is not an unintereſting

ing obſervation to remark that one of thoſe negroes, named Semes, aged from thirty to five and thirty years, has learned to read and write by his own unaided exertions. His converſation announces ſolid good ſenſe, together with an earneſt deſire of inſtruction: and, after having ſeen him, it is not eaſy to adopt the opinion of thoſe who refuſe to allow the negro race any conſiderable portion of intellect.

All the country about Norfolk is level, without any elevation. The width and beautiful forms of Elizabeth-River—the little town of Portſmouth on the oppoſite ſhore—the great number of ſhipping, ſome at anchor, ſome at the wharfs, ſome under repair, ſome building, enliven the proſpect, and render it tolerably pleaſing: but, without theſe acceſſaries, it would be dull and inſipid. The navigation of fifteen miles, which muſt be performed in order to reach the beginning of the Diſmal-Swamp canal, lies through a country equally flat, where the houſes are thinly ſcattered, ſmall and mean in appearance, and ſituate each in the centre of a ſmall patch of cleared ground not exceeding two or three

acres.

acres. All along Elizabeth River and the creeks which flow into it, are built great numbers of ſmall veſſels, which are almoſt all intended for ſale at Philadelphia.

The temperature of the air at Norfolk is conſtantly variable, as is the caſe in many other parts of America. It frequently happens that in the ſame day the diverſity of two or three ſeaſons is experienced. The eaſterly and north-eaſterly winds render the weather cold even in ſummer: from every other point the wind is accompanied with burning heat. At Norfolk, as in almoſt every other part of America, ſpring is unknown. The heat begins to be felt at an early ſeaſon; and at the commencement of April, peaſe, beans, thorn-buſhes, and even roſe-trees, are in bloom.

In every part of America through which I have hitherto travelled, the obliging civilities I have experienced have invariably proved how falſe and groundleſs are thoſe prejudices which the French and Engliſh ſo obſtinately entertain to the diſadvantage of the Americans. Were I in this inſtance to form my ideas from my own perſonal experience alone, they alſo

alſo might in like manner be branded with the appellation of prejudice: but I have found my opinion corroborated by that of every traveller whom I have had an opportunity of ſeeing, and who thought proper to judge for himſelf, uninfluenced by partiality. The friendly reception given to travellers in America, eſpecially by thoſe to whom they come recommended, is not confined to a dinner—the uſual return for letters of introduction: it is common to meet men, even men of little leiſure, who devote to you as great a portion of their time as you think proper to engroſs—who ſeek for the means of rendering your ſtay agreeable—and this without compliment, with an appearance of ſincerity and ſatisfaction which ſaves you from being embarraſſed by their complaiſance, and makes you feel it each moment more and more agreeable. As to me, who think myſelf by no means addicted to exaggeration, and who am far from being an admirer of every thing I ſee in America, I confeſs that I ſeldom quit a place where I have made any ſtay, without thinking and acknowledging myſelf bound to entertain a ſenſe of gratitude, of which I carry away

away with me a reſolution of ſooner or later proving the ſincerity. Major William Lindſey, Commiſſioner of the Cuſtom-houſe, is, of all the inhabitants of Norfolk, the individual with whom I have the moſt particular reaſon to be ſatisfied. He is a man recommended by ſimplicity of manners and goodneſs of heart, and is held in univerſal eſteem. I am perſonally indebted to him for information on a variety of ſubjects; and to his amiable diſpoſition toward me I am further indebted for the opportunities of acquiring ſuch information as he could not himſelf furniſh me with.

There are three churches in Norfolk: one, Proteſtant-epiſcopalian, which, like all the others of that ſect in Virginia, is ſubject to the inſpection of the Biſhop of Williamſburg: another belongs to the Roman Catholics, and the clergyman derives his powers from Mr. Carrol, Biſhop of Maryland: the third is a Methodiſt church, in which, as in all others of that denomination, there is an abundance of grimaces, howlings, and contortions.

To the port of Norfolk, above any other in the United States, came the greateſt num-

ber of coloniſts eſcaped from Saint-Domingo at the commencement of their troubles. The principal cauſe of that choice was the circumſtance that the convoy which ſailed from Cape Français after the conflagration of the town, put into Hampton-Road. Norfolk lies twenty miles from the road: and the warmth of the climate, the ſlavery of the negroes which left it in the power of the refugee coloniſts to employ thoſe whom they had been able to bring off with them, and the kind reception which the inhabitants gave to the ill-fated fugitives, fixed them on the ſpot. Private ſubſcriptions raiſed in all the towns of Virginia, together with further ſums voted by the ſtate legiſlature and by Congreſs, afforded the unfortunate French inconteſtable proofs of the benevolence and generoſity of the Americans. The people of Norfolk ſhowed themſelves very warm advocates of the French cauſe; and, among ſeveral teſtimonies which they diſplayed of that diſpoſition, the following deſerves to be quoted. The French convoy was preparing to quit the Cheſapeak in order to proceed to the northern part of America: a report was circulated

circulated that the friends of * * * * intended to ſend a pilot-boat to Halifax to give intelligence of their departure to the Engliſh fleet; and that very night all the pilot-boats were unrigged.

The number of French reſident at Norfolk has conſiderably diminiſhed. They have diſperſed through the other parts of America, where there is hardly a town that does not reckon ſome of their number among its inhabitants.

I had great pleaſure in meeting at Norfolk my friend Monſieur Guillemard whom I had left ſick at Philadelphia; but we are once more to ſeparate, and to meet again at Richmond.

HAMPTON.

A wherry, employed in tranſporting the mail from Norfolk to Hampton, whence it is forwarded by land to Richmond, is the uſual conveyance for paſſengers who intend to purſue that route. In good weather, the paſſage, which is about eighteen miles, is performed in two hours: we were ten hours in croſſing,

for want of wind: and as the tide was low when we arrived at Hampton, on the ſecond of June, our negro ſailors miſſed the narrow channel which leads to the town, and ſo completely ſtranded us on a bar which choaks up the entrance of the creek, that we were obliged to gain Hampton in a boat. This place is a ſmall village, which the difcult entrance of its creek will prevent from ever becoming more conſiderable.

Hampton is the only place where, on proceeding from Norfolk, a perſon can debark who propoſes to travel by land through this part of Virginia. The arrival of the Richmond ſtage three times a week, and the reſidence of a few pilots who were induced to chooſe this ſpot for the place of their abode on account of its proximity to the entrance of the Cheſapeak, give to this petty village ſome little ſhare of activity, though indeed it is very little. The inn here is deteſtable, and we could find in it but two ſmall beds to accommodate five paſſengers of us who arrived together. It is ſaid to be in contemplation to erect a more convenient one: ſo much the better for thoſe who may come after us.

us. Fortunately we were to quit this abominable lodging at two o'clock in the morning; and it was already eleven: hence this uncomfortable night was ſoon paſt. But there was not a ſingle morſel of bread to be expected previous to our departure; and I ſtood in very great need of ſome.

Heretofore there was a cuſtom-houſe eſtabliſhed at Hampton. The exportations amounted, in 1791, to 1,393 dollars—in 1792, to 4,961—in 1793, to 11,789—in 1794, to 11,947. In 1795, this cuſtom-houſe was united with that of Norfolk.

YORK-TOWN.

The road from Hampton to York-Town runs all along through woods. The patches of cleared land are yet rare and inconſiderable in this diſtrict. One meets however with ſome fields of Indian corn, meadows, crops of rye. Spots of ſeveral acres are ſeen encloſed with fences, which are even ſometimes well executed by means of a mound of earth a couple of feet in height, forming

a kind of wall, on which are planted ſtakes that are afterwards interwoven with pine-branches. But in traverſing America the traveller cannot refrain from aſking in his own mind why the people do not plant quick hedges, which afford a better ſecurity, and are at the ſame time an ornament to the lands.

The ſoil, in the whole of this tract, appears not bad, though by no means of the firſt quality. The moſt common trees in the woods are the pine, the oak, the beech, and the hickory. I have ſeen ſome of conſiderable height. The country is flat. The ground however is thirty feet higher than the river at York-Town: yet the road, with the exception of two or three ſmall riſings, has to the view all the inconveniences of an abſolutely level plain.

York-Town is the place where terminated the American war—where the French effectually aided the Americans to ſhake off the yoke of England—and where Britiſh pride was a ſecond time ſeverely humbled.

I have gone over the part of the country that had been occupied by the encampments and the works of the allied armies: it was quite familiar

familiar to me from the plans of it which I had often examined. It is now difficult to diſcover any veſtiges of the batteries, of the parallels, even of the two redoubts ſo brilliantly carried by the American and French grenadiers under the command of Meſſieurs de la Fayette and de Viomeſnil. The earth has preſerved the traces of them no better than many American heads would now wiſh to retain the remembrance. Some of the Britiſh intrenchments in front of the town are more diſtinctly recognizable. But the only really exiſting monument of that memorable ſiege is General Nelſon's houſe, the moſt conſiderable edifice in the whole town, and which, until a few days after the commencement of the ſiege, was Lord Cornwallis's head-quarters. That great houſe, which is built of brick, and which at that period had been recently erected, is pierced in every direction with cannon-ſhot, and bomb-ſhells; and the ſurrounding ſpot of ground every-where diſplays ſtrong traces of their ravages. That houſe, which General Nelſon neglected to have ſpeedily repaired after the ſiege, has, ſince his death, devolved, together with the reſt of his pro-

perty, to his three ſons; and they not agreeing as to the diſpoſal of the houſe, it remains unrepaired. This conſequence which is detrimental to the intereſts of his family, is, in my opinion, very advantageous to the town, inaſmuch as it preſerves there a curious monument of an event which proved deciſive in favour of American independence, and which at any period would be honourable to any nation. After the ſurrender of York-Town, the Congreſs, in paſſing a vote of thanks to the American and French armies which had thus brought the war to a concluſion, gave orders for the erection of a monument to perpetuate the memory of that tranſaction. The monument is not even yet begun. Such negligence is inconceivable, ſhameful, and unaccountable. The preſent diſpoſition of the American government toward England does not admit of a ſuppoſition that they have at this time any thought of erecting that monument.

York-Town, where we arrived on the third of June, does not preſent any other object of curioſity. It is a ſmall and tolerably well built village, where the Engliſh, contrary to their

their uſual practice during the American war, deſtroyed no houſes except ſuch as impeded their defence. Its population conſiſts of eight hundred perſons, of whom two thirds are negroes. It is agreeably ſituated, commanding a fine proſpect of the majeſtic ſtream of York-River, which Glouceſter-Point, that lies oppoſite, narrows here to two thirds of a mile, but which above and below the town is two miles wide.

York-Town carries on no trade: but the inhabitants ſay that forty years back it was the emporium of all Virginia. It ſupplied with European commodities all the ſhops and ſtores of the moſt diſtant towns; and it was the port where the planters, who at that time ſold their tobacco directly to the Engliſh merchants, were accuſtomed to ſhip it. Before the commencement of the revolutionary war, there were ſtill ſix or ſeven ſhips annually loaded there for England. Since that period its commerce has been uniformly on the decline; and it has now dwindled to nothing. Norfolk and Baltimore export all the produce of York-River, and furniſh the town with European goods. The inhabitants are of courſe

courſe deſtitute of employment: ſome of the number retail ſpirituous liquors and a few ſtuffs: others call themſelves lawyers and juſtices of the peace. In general they have at ſome diſtance from the town ſmall farms to which they every morning pay a viſit. But theſe occupations not engroſſing much of their attention or their time, the inhabitants of York-Town, who live together on terms of the greateſt harmony, much more aſſiduouſly employ both the one and the other in dining together, drinking punch, and playing at billiards. To give a ſomewhat higher zeſt to this monotonous round of life, they often change the place of their meetings.

On the oppoſite ſide of the river, in Glouceſter-County, are annually built a conſiderable number of veſſels.

York-Town is the capital of York-County, which contains a population of about ſix thouſand inhabitants, of whom above one half are ſlaves. The town, notwithſtanding the decay of its commerce, has a cuſtom-houſe, to which are ſubject ſeveral little ports in the vicinity. The value of its exportations was 99,811 dollars in the year 1791—154,166

in

in 1792—34,992 in 1793—7,579 in 1794—and 3,060 in 1795.

I dined with the greater number of thoſe who compoſe the ſociety of York-Town, at the houſe of Mr. Clarkſton, to whom I had letters of introduction. Doctor Griffin, to whom I had alſo a letter, was abſent from town. He is ſaid to be a man of information. I found in Mr. Clarkſton and all the others a very obliging diſpoſition, a great deſire to do every thing which they could conceive likely to prove agreeable to me; in ſhort I obſerved in them all the characteriſtics of an honeſt, ſimple, and frank hoſpitality. Every individual among them preſerves an honourable remembrance of the French troops, on account of their exemplary conduct as well during the ſiege as during the ſpace of ſome months which intervened between the termination of the ſiege and their departure for France. The name of Maréchal Rochambeau is here held in high veneration.

There is no regular market at York-Town: each perſon furniſhes himſelf with meat in the beſt manner he can; and they are ſeldom unſupplied with it. Beef coſts from three to four

four pence the pound; mutton and veal six pence; other articles in proportion. Fish is here abundant, and almost for nothing. The highest rents in the town are from eighty to a hundred dollars. Flour, an article which it is difficult to procure, costs at present fifteen dollars. Although the air of this place be infinitely more salubrious than that of Norfolk, the inhabitants nevertheless frequently experience intermittent fevers in autumn.

WILLIAMSBURG.

The inhabitants of York-Town being precluded by the narrowness of their circumstances from keeping horses, of which however they often stand in need, one or two persons have some for hire in that little town, consisting of only about fifty houses. I there had an opportunity of procuring one to convey me to Williamsburg, where I arrived on the fourth of June.

The road from York-Town to Williamsburg is in many parts agreeable: the country is somewhat more hilly; and cultivation is a little

a little more common. New ſettlements are ſeen which are tolerably well begun; and the pieces of new-cleared land are in almoſt every inſtance ſurrounded with ditches well made and well ſodded: but the houſes uniformly exhibit a mean appearance, and their inhabitants betray ſtrong ſymptoms of poverty. A long tract of woodland is here alſo to be paſſed, where no cultivation is ſeen; but where the oak, the hickory, the liquid-ambar, the ſaſſafras tree, grow with vigour, and ſeem to indicate a good ſoil. The cattle here, as in Carolina, are conſtantly in the woods: they are poor and ill-favoured, and of a bad breed. They are fed in the ſtable during a few weeks previous to their being killed.—In all this tract, land is ſold at four or five dollars the acre.

Williamſburg is ſituate in a plain five miles from York-River, and at the ſame diſtance from James-River. Two creeks, which empty themſelves into thoſe great rivers, approach within two miles of the town on each ſide, and are there navigable. It is by means of theſe creeks that the commodities of Europe arrive from Richmond, Norfolk, and

ſometimes

ſometimes Baltimore, to furniſh the ſtores in the town, which are in general indifferently ſupplied.

Before the revolution, Williamſburg was the capital of Virginia: but at that period the legiſlature choſe Richmond for the place of their meeting, as being more diſtant from the ſea-coaſt; and they have ſince eſtabliſhed themſelves there. This removal has reduced Williamſburg to a village. Every perſon who was connected with government has followed the legiſlature to Richmond; and the number of inhabitants is annually decreaſing at Williamſburg in the ſame manner as at York-Town. The preſent population is about twelve or thirteen hundred ſouls, of whom above one half are negro ſlaves.

A ſtate-houſe, of which one part ſerves for the ſittings of the diſtrict-court, bears the name of "the Capitol." It is a tolerably handſome brick building, but is falling to ruin. A marble ſtatue of Lord Botetourt, one of the governors of Virginia under the former ſyſtem, whoſe conduct had entitled him to the reſpect and attachment of the Virginians, ſtands

ſtands in the periſtyle of this Capitol: but it is in a disfigured ſtate. The lower claſs of the inhabitants of Williamſburg, actuated by revolutionary animoſity, conſidered as an act of homage to liberty every inſult offered to that monument erected by gratitude in honour of a former lord; and in conſequence they ſhamefully mutilated it. The inſcription engraven on the pedeſtal, expreſſing the grateful ſenſe of the people of Virginia, and which the populace did not deſtroy, forms a ſtriking contraſt with the indignities which the ſtatue has experienced, and honourably vindicates the memory of Lord Botetourt.

This Capitol terminates a ſtreet of a hundred and ſixty feet in breadth, and three quarters of a mile in length, at the oppoſite end of which ſtands the college. This eſtabliſhment, founded in the reign of William and Mary, ſtill bears their names. Its income, before the revolution, was from ſeventeen to eighteen thouſand dollars: at preſent it is reduced to three thouſand five hundred. It aroſe partly from duties on the exportation of tobacco and ſeveral other commodities, and partly from

from land. The duties fell to nothing in conſequence of the unlimited freedom of the export trade: the twenty thouſand acres of land have alone remained: theſe are let out on long leaſes of two or three lives, and are all in a ſtate of cultivation. Another ſmall duty, on the ſurveying of land, concurs with the rent ariſing from thoſe twenty thouſand acres in compoſing that ſcanty income of three thouſand five hundred dollars, which the legiſlature does not ſeem inclined to augment.

Mathematics, natural and moral philoſophy, natural and civil law, with the modern languages, conſtitute the whole round of inſtruction given in this college. The pupils are not ſent thither before the age of fifteen, and generally ſpend two years in purſuing the different courſes of ſtudy. One is aſtoniſhed to learn that not one of them lives in thoſe vaſt buildings deſtined for their reception, but that they are diſperſed through the different boarding-houſes in the town, at a diſtance from all inſpection. Biſhop Madiſon who is preſident of this ſeminary, and the other profeſſors, who together with him definitively make all the regulations reſpecting

ing the internal police of the college, aſſert that it has been proved by experience, that good order, peace, and even the ſucceſs of their ſtudies, are more effectually promoted by this ſeparation of the ſtudents, than by their being united together within the ſame walls, as the common effects of ſuch union were frequent quarrels and preconcerted mutinies. On hearing their reaſonings, one would be tempted to think that they have paid greater regard to their own eaſe than to the intereſt of the youth entruſted to their care, whom ſtrict watchfulneſs, good management, and attentions proportioned to their age, would have as effectually kept in good order at Williamſburg as in every other college in the world.

The ſtudents pay fourteen dollars to each profeſſor whoſe courſe of leſſons they attend: their board and lodging coſt them from a hundred to a hundred and twenty dollars: conſequently the expence to their parents amounts to about a hundred and ſixty or a hundred and ſeventy dollars a year. Excluſive of theſe emoluments, each profeſſor receives the annual ſum of four hundred dol-

lars from the funds of the eſtabliſhment. Biſhop Madiſon occupies the chair of natural and moral philoſophy, and has, in addition to his profeſſorial ſalary, two hundred dollars more, as preſident.

The internal adminiſtration of the college is entruſted to the care of the profeſſors, who are nominated by a board of eighteen viſitors choſen throughout the whole ſtate. The houſe—like the generality of thoſe in Williamſburg, York-Town, and even Norfolk—is kept in very indifferent condition. The college is not ſufficiently opulent to make the requiſite annual repairs; and whenever it becomes neceſſary to undertake ſuch as are in any wiſe conſiderable, it is aided by the legiſlature. It poſſeſſes a library tolerably well furniſhed with claſſical books: it conſiſts almoſt entirely of old books, except two hundred volumes of the fineſt and beſt French productions ſent as a preſent by Louis XVI. at the termination of the American war, but which a merchant at Richmond, who was commiſſioned to forward them to the college, ſuffered to lie forgotten in his cellars amid hogſheads of ſugar and caſks of oil, until,

when

when at length he did forward them, they were totally ſpoiled. The funds of the college do not allow any addition to their library, which moreover is very ill kept in point of order and cleanlineſs.

The legiſlature of Virginia is ſaid to entertain the deſign of founding a new college in a more central part of the ſtate: but it is not known whether that of Williamſburg is to be taken as the ground-work of the intended eſtabliſhment, or ſuffered to continue on its preſent footing and left to its own ſcanty reſources, while the new college ſhould be liberally endowed.

There is beſides at Williamſburg an hoſpital for lunatics, which is ſupported from the public treaſury. It is a fine building; but in it the unfortunate maniacs are rather abandoned to their wretched ſtate than ſubjected to any treatment which might tend to their recovery. From the obſervations made in Virginia on maniacal complaints, the principal cauſes aſſigned for them are enthuſiaſtic devotion and ſpirituous liquors; and it appears that ſuch as ariſe from the latter of theſe cauſes are leſs difficult of cure than

thoſe which owe their origin to the former. There are only fifteen lunatics of both ſexes in this hoſpital, which is capable of containing thirty.

The ſoil in the vicinity of Williamſburg is tolerably well cultivated: but here, as in other parts of Virginia, each proprietor poſſeſſes ſo great an extent of land, that he cultivates but a ſmall portion of it. The ordinary rotation of culture here is—Indian corn—next wheat or other grain—then three or four years in fallow, during which the crops of graſs furniſh the cattle with good ſuſtenance. After this reſt of three or four years, the ground is again cultivated in the ſame manner. The lands thus managed yield from eight to twelve buſhels of wheat per acre, or from twelve to fourteen of Indian corn. Thoſe few ſpots that are manured with dung produce double that quantity. In the immediate environs of the town, the land in general is indifferent; it ſells for ſeven or eight dollars the acre. The beſt ſpots, eſpecially thoſe which are ſituate near creeks, bear a higher price, as far as twelve dollars: but it is worthy of remark, that while,

while, in almoſt every other part of America, the price of land has encreaſed three and four fold, in theſe lower parts of Virginia it has received no augmentation during the laſt twenty years.

At Williamſburg a regular market is held, and the prices are the ſame as at York-Town. A pair of oxen fit for the plough are ſold for forty dollars. They are ſmall and indifferent. Sheep are in tolerable plenty; but they are of an inferior and ugly breed. Their wool is valued at about a quarter-dollar the pound. The difference in the demand, rather than in the quality, ſometimes cauſes a ſmall variation in the price.

The ſtate taxes are not conſiderable. I ſhall ſpeak of them more at large, when I have had ſufficient opportunities of procuring more complete information on the ſubject. The town-rates are nothing; there being neither pavements, nor public buildings, nor bridges, to be kept in repair: the heavieſt rate is that for the ſuſtenance of the poor. Each houſe-keeper contributes, for himſelf and for each of his negroes above the age of ſixteen years, half a dollar for that purpoſe.

The ſum total of theſe contributions is diſtributed by the overſeers of the poor, under the inſpection of the juſtices of the peace, to ſuch families as are deemed to ſtand in need of aſſiſtance. Theſe receive from twelve to thirty-ſix dollars per annum, according to their yet remaining ability to work or their total incapacity for labour.

In a country where it is eaſy to procure a ſubſiſtence and to make ſome reſerve for old age—in a country where population, being extremely productive, conſtantly ſupplies each family with ſome young branch capable of ſupporting it—one can hardly feel inclined to beſtow his approbation on a tax whoſe inevitable tendency is to perpetuate and even to create idleneſs and improvidence: and it might perhaps with reaſon be ſaid, that, in this pretended charity, there is a greater portion of vanity and indolent inattention than of genuine beneficence and enlightened policy. It was firſt introduced into Virginia becauſe it was eſtabliſhed in England: it has maintained its ground here becauſe a tax of this kind is not eaſily reformed—becauſe it is ſupported by habit—

and

and becauſe, moreover, in a country where ſlavery prevails, and where the poſſeſſion of the ſoil is veſted in ſo few hands, that claſs of whites who do not poſſeſs landed property are more indigent than elſewhere.—The negroes have no ſhare in this public charity.

Mr. Andrews, mathematical profeſſor in the college, and Biſhop Madiſon, did me the honours of the town with that obliging politeneſs which I have been habitually accuſtomed to experience in America. With the former of theſe gentlemen I had become acquainted at Norfolk; to the Biſhop I had letters. In the two days which I ſpent at Williamſburg, they introduced me to the chief part of the ſociety of the place, which appears very much united, and to conſiſt of well-informed men. Biſhop Madiſon is himſelf a man of conſiderable knowledge in natural philoſophy, chymiſtry, and even polite literature. His library, much leſs numerous than that of the college, conſiſts of a more choice ſelection of books, eſpecially of thoſe relating to the ſciences. He annually augments his collection by the addition of the

moſt eſteemed ſcientific and new publications. To him the public are indebted for meteorological obſervations very accurately made in different parts of Virginia, and to which he has devoted much time.

The inhabitants of Williamſburg, if we except the profeſſors and the judges, have not much more opulence or employment than thoſe of York-Town: they have as frequent meetings as the others: but it appears that they live leſs "freely," as the country phraſe expreſſes it—that is to ſay, they drink leſs wine and ſpirits.

All the remarks I have hitherto heard on the ſubject of politics in Virginia are in direct oppoſition to the idea that had been given me on that head in the northern ſtates. The general opinion, it is true, is evidently againſt the treaty: people would have wiſhed that it had never taken place, or at leaſt that it had been made on better terms—that the preſident's inſtructions had been more faithfully followed—that he, yielding to what appears to have been his firſt impulſe, had ſent it back to England without communicating it to the ſenate: nor is it thought here

here that a war would have been the conſequence of ſuch a ſtep. But, from the then exiſting ſtate of the buſineſs, it would have been matter of conſiderable regret to them that the opinion of the oppoſition-party in the late congreſs had prevailed reſpecting the non-appropriation of the funds neceſſary for carrying it into execution; and they ſeem ſatisfied that the long debates, which leave no doubt of the diſapprobation with which the treaty was received, have terminated in the manner that they did.

As I advance farther into the country, I ſhall become better acquainted with the general opinion. I have great pleaſure in obſerving that the French army is here remembered with veneration; it partly remained here for ſeveral months; and each individual recollects with intereſt and gratitude the particular officer with whom he was acquainted. Above all the others, monſieur de Rochambeau and the baron de Viomeſnil have left an honourable remembrance of themſelves in the minds of the inhabitants: and whenever the converſation perſonally turns on the individuals of that army—

army — whether generals, commanders of corps, or aides-de-camp—it appears that the judgement which has been formed of them here was dictated by great benevolence, ſagacity, and juſtice.

JOURNEY TO RICHMOND.

Of all the inconveniences attending the public carriages in America—and the number of thoſe inconveniences is great—one of the moſt mortifying is that they almoſt invariably run over the very worſt parts of the country through which they travel. The roads are generally, and with good reaſon, laid out in the drieſt ſoils, conſequently in the ſpots which are the leaſt adapted for cultivation. In the ſpace of ſixty miles which I yeſterday travelled from Williamſburg to Richmond, I did not ſee twenty houſes; and ſuch as I ſaw were mean and wretched. A few fields of Indian corn occaſionally met my ſight, and ſome new-cleared grounds of conſiderable extent, but not a ſingle field that was tolerably well cultivated; whereas I am aſſured, that, within

within four miles on each ſide of the road, the lands are good and the plantations numerous. A few hills, however, occur on the way: and when a traveller's eye has, like mine, been near three months fatigued by that unvarying uniformity of flat ſands and ſtagnant marſhes, a hill proves a ſource of enjoyment: he excuſes its aridity in conſideration of its being a hill: and when, with the diverſity and animation which this change in the face of the country gives to the proſpect, he combines the idea that he has now reached the boundaries of that mephitic ſtagnation which engenders and propagates all ſpecies of maladies with ſuch fatal rapidity, his enjoyments are not confined to the eye alone.

Crowded in the ſtage by ten paſſengers and their baggage, we did not arrive at Richmond before eleven o'clock at night, though we had ſet out from Williamſburg at eight in the morning; the rain, which has been abundant during the laſt two days, having rendered the roads very bad.

TOWN

TOWN OF RICHMOND.

The poſition of Richmond is truly agreeable. The lower town, which is ſituate along the bank of James-River, lies between that river and a tolerably high hill: but the greater part of the houſes—thoſe indeed of almoſt every perſon who is not engaged in trade — are built on the hill, which commands a proſpect of the river, and whence the view embraces at once the iſlands formed by its waters, the extenſive valley through which it flows, and the numerous falls by which its ſtream is broken. On the oppoſite ſide of the river, the country riſes in a gentle acclivity; and the little but well-built town of Mancheſter, environed by cultivated fields which are ornamented by an infinite number of trees and dotted with ſcattered houſes, embelliſhes the ſweet, variegated, agreeable, and romantic perſpective.

The Capitol is erected on a point of this hill which commands the town. This edifice, which is extremely vaſt, is conſtructed on

on the plan of the "Maiſon Quarrée" at Niſmes, but on a much more extenſive ſcale. The attics of the Maiſon Quarrée have undergone an alteration in the Capitol, to ſuit them for the convenience of the public offices of every denomination, which, thus perfectly ſecure againſt all accidents from fire, lie within reach of the tribunals, the executive council, the governor, the general aſſembly, who all ſit in the Capitol, and draw to it a great afflux of people. This building, which is entirely of brick, is not yet coated with plaſter: the columns, the pilaſters, are deſtitute of baſes and capitals: but the interior and exterior cornices are finiſhed, and are well executed. The reſt will be completed with more or leſs ſpeed: but, even in its preſent unfiniſhed ſtate, this building is, beyond compariſon, the fineſt, the moſt noble, and the greateſt, in all America. The internal diſtribution of its parts is extremely well adapted to the purpoſes for which it is deſtined. It was Mr. Jefferſon who, during his embaſſy in France, ſent the model of it. Already it is ſaid to have coſt a hundred

and

and ſeventy thouſand dollars; and fifteen thouſand more are the eſtimated ſum requiſite for completing it and remedying ſome defects which have been obſerved in the conſtruction.

In the great central veſtibule, which is lighted by a kind of dome contained in the thickneſs of the roof, has lately been placed a ſtatue of George Waſhington, voted, ten years ſince, by the general aſſembly of Virginia. In addition to the ſentiments of gratitude which they felt in common with the reſt of America, that body entertained moreover a particular affection for him, together with the pride of having him for their countryman. Since that period the preſident has acquired new claims to the general approbation and eſteem. If he be chargeable with ſome errors in adminiſtration, as I think he is, nevertheleſs his devotion to the public weal and the purity of his intentions cannot even be ſuſpected: yet it is doubtful whether at the preſent moment the aſſembly of Virginia would be inclined to vote him ſuch an honour: at leaſt it is certain that the ſame unanimity would not prevail

prevail on the occaſion. This ſtatue was executed by Houdon, one of the firſt ſculptors in France. He undertook a voyage to America five or ſix years ſince for the expreſs purpoſe of making a buſt of the preſident from the life. Although the ſtatue be beautiful, and diſplay even a nobleneſs in the compoſition and a likeneſs in the features, it does not bear the marks of Houdon's talent: one cannot trace in it the hand of him who produced the celeſtial Diana which conſtitutes the chief part of that artiſt's reputation.

Near this ſtatue of the preſident ſtands a marble buſt of monſieur de la Fayette, voted at the ſame time by the aſſembly of Virginia, and alſo carved by Houdon, but with greater diſplay of ability.

The population of Richmond amounts to ſix thouſand perſons, of whom about one third are negroes. This town has prodigiouſly increaſed during the years which have elapſed ſince the legiſlature choſe it for the place of their ſittings: but within the laſt two or three years it has remained ſtationary. A few years back, a conflagration

tion conſumed almoſt all the lower part of the town. This accident induced the inhabitants to rebuild in brick not only the houſes conſumed, which had been of wood, but alſo ſeveral others which the owners' fears wiſhed to preſerve from the ſame calamity. At preſent there are few wooden houſes at Richmond.

The trade of this town conſiſts in the purchaſe of the country productions, the number of which is confined to wheat, Indian corn, and tobacco—and in ſelling at ſecond hand the articles of domeſtic conſumption, which are generally procured from England. The number of merchants who carry on a direct commerce with Europe is inconſiderable: they keep their ſhips at Norfolk; the river not being navigable for thoſe of large ſize higher up than City-Point, at the diſtance, by water, of ſixty-ſix miles below Richmond. They therefore ſend the produce of the country in ſmaller veſſels to Norfolk, where they eaſily find opportunities of completing their cargo, if needful. The generality of theſe merchants are only the agents or partners of Engliſh houſes: the others

others hardly carry on any other than the commiſſion trade, which may be conſidered as the real buſineſs of the place.

It is from the merchants of Richmond or Peterſburg that thoſe of Norfolk moſt commonly purchaſe the grain, flour, and tobacco, which the latter export, and which the former have purchaſed at firſt hand. The country produce is paid for by the merchants in ready money or at ſhort credit: they even frequently obtain it on cheaper terms by furniſhing the planters with an advance of money on their crop. The Richmond merchants ſupply all the ſtores through an extenſive tract of back country. As they have a very long credit from England, they can allow a ſimilar indulgence of ſix, nine, or twelve months to the ſhopkeepers whom they ſupply, and from whom they always derive a conſiderable profit, which is ſtill further increaſed when they exact payment in country produce.

Almoſt all the merchants of Richmond have ſhops for the retail-trade. They all deal in bills of exchange on Europe; a trade

which often proves extremely profitable to them.

There are few opulent merchants at Richmond; ſtill fewer in eaſy circumſtances; and it is no difficult matter to find good notes at four and five per cent per month. But people have not here, as in the principal towns of America, the reſource of putting theſe notes into the bank: accordingly this kind of traffic is here much more lucrative. The legal intereſt of money, which is only five per cent per annum, together with the ſcarcity of ſpecie and the general want of confidence, render it difficult to obtain money on loan.

RICHMOND CANAL.

The falls of James-River, which obſtructed its navigation from the diſtance of ſeven miles above Richmond, heretofore impoſed a neceſſity of employing land-carriage for that ſpace. At preſent a canal, running parallel with the courſe of the river for thoſe ſeven miles, connects the communication by water, and opens a navigation which extends

extends without interruption two hundred miles above Richmond. This canal, already nearly finiſhed, will be entirely completed during the preſent year, excepting the baſin, which the directors propoſe to form at the entrance of the town, and of a much greater ſize than ſeems neceſſary for the trade of Richmond on any reaſonable ſuppoſition of its future encreaſe. The locks at the opening of the canal are erected: they are ſimple, and the gates are eaſily managed by one or two men, but might be rendered ſtill more eaſy in their movement. Theſe, being three in cloſe ſucceſſion, raiſe the boats to an elevation of ſeventeen feet. Others will be required, if it be intended to carry the canal as far as Rocket, a mile below the town, beyond which point veſſels of forty tons cannot come up on the Richmond ſide: on the other ſide veſſels even of greater burden can come up almoſt oppoſite to the town. The extenſion of the canal to Rocket has for its object to facilitate the direct tranſportation of the back-country produce to City-Point, and ſo on to Norfolk. By this mean, thoſe commodities, which otherwiſe

would find no market except at Richmond, might reach Norfolk, and, by exciting a competition between the merchants of both towns, might probably cauſe an encreaſe of profit to the planters. But the expence of theſe additional locks would be very conſiderable. The fund of two hundred and forty thouſand dollars, raiſed by a ſubſcription of ſeven hundred ſhares, is already exhauſted: and a loan of twenty-one thouſand dollars, made by the truſtees of the canal under the authority of the ſtate, and ſecured by a mortgage of the tolls that have already begun to be received on the part which is finiſhed, has been proved ſcarcely ſufficient to complete the execution of the original plan. It appears that the great expence which would attend the addition furniſhes the holders of the canal ſhares with a pretext for oppoſing it, and that the Richmond merchants uſe that as a cloke to cover their wiſh to remain the ſole purchaſers of the produce of the back country, which is the real motive of their oppoſition to the further extenſion of the canal.

INSPECTION

INSPECTION OF MERCHANDIZE.

The culture of tobacco is not carried on in the vicinity of Richmond, at leaſt not on an extenſive ſcale. There are nevertheleſs three houſes of inſpection in this town: ſimilar eſtabliſhments are to be found in every diſtrict of Virginia where tobacco is cultivated, and in all the commercial towns. Theſe inſpections, whoſe object is to enſure to foreign purchaſers the quality of the commodity for which they contract, are ordered by the ſtate for tobacco, flour, and other articles. They are eſtabliſhed in like manner in all the ſtates which produce theſe articles. But the inſpection of the tobacco in Virginia, and eſpecially on James-River, is eſteemed to be conducted with a degree of exactneſs and ſeverity which contributes as much as the real ſuperiority of the article itſelf to keep up its price in the market. Every tobacco-planter who intends his crop for exportation packs it up in hogſheads, and thus ſends it to one of the houſes of inſpection. There the tobacco is taken from

its caſe, which is opened for the purpoſe; it is examined in every direction and in every part, in order to aſcertain its quality, its homogeneity, its purity; it is rejected as unfit for exportation if any defect is perceived in it; or, if no objection appear, it is pronounced to be exportable. It is then repacked in its hogſhead, which is branded with a hot iron, marking the place of inſpection and the quality of the contents; after which, it is lodged in the ſtorehouſes of the inſpection, there to await the diſpoſal of the planter, who receives a certificate of the particulars, ſerving at the ſame time as an acknowledgement of the depoſit. It is by ſelling this "tobacco-note" to the merchant that the planter ſells his tobacco. The purchaſer, on viewing the note, is as well acquainted with the article as if he had himſelf inſpected it: and he has only to ſend the note and transfer to the ſtore where the tobacco lies, and it is immediately delivered out to his order. The tobacco is often ſent by the planter himſelf to the warehouſes of a different inſpection from that where he has it inſpected, either becauſe he

he thinks them more convenient to the market, or for other private reaſons. This happens at the warehouſes of the Richmond inſpection, which annually receive numbers of hogſheads that have been inſpected elſewhere.

The inſpectors—for there are two in each inſpection—receive as inſpection-fee a dollar and half per hogſhead: from the ſums hence ariſing they receive their ſalaries, which vary from a hundred to two hundred and fifty dollars per annum, according to the importance of the office where they are employed. The reſidue of the inſpection-fees conſtitutes a part of the revenues of the ſtate.

Every other ſpecies of produce deſtined for exportation is alſo ſubject to inſpection, as flour, hemp, tar; but theſe articles do not ſeem to undergo the ſame ſevere ſcrutiny as the tobacco. For, at Philadelphia, for inſtance, the Virginia flour, notwithſtanding its being branded with the mark of "ſuperfine," is ſubjected to a new inſpection. The merchants of Virginia attribute this re-inſpection to commercial jealouſy on the part

of Philadelphia: but there exists in reality so prodigious a difference between the flour hitherto manufactured at Richmond, and that from the mills of Pennsylvania and Delaware, that the former is constantly taken in the course of trade at half a dollar, and sometimes even at a dollar and half, lower than the latter.

MILLS.

I have seen one of the two mills at Richmond: it stands below the falls of the river, receives a great power of water, and turns six pair of stones. It is a fine mill, and unites the advantages of all the new inventions: but it is ill constructed: the cogs of the wheels are clumsily executed: it is moreover not sufficiently roomy. It nevertheless costs a yearly rent of near six thousand dollars to Monsieur Chevalier, a Frenchman from Rochefort, heretofore director of the French paquets to America, and now settled in Virginia. This mill is generally employed in private manufacture, and seldom works for the public; when the latter is the case, the terms

terms for grinding are five buſhels for each barrel of flour. Monſieur Chevalier and his partners are in the conſtant habit of ſpeculating on the moment when they ſhall ſend their flour to market. Their ſpeculations have hitherto proved very advantageous to them: but they have reaſon to apprehend a material loſs from a late ſpeculation which determined them two months ſince to refuſe the offer of thirteen dollars per barrel, in hopes of obtaining a ſtill better price. At the preſent moment they could not find a purchaſer at above ten dollars.

MANNERS AND LAWS.

Society here diſplays the characteriſtics of ſimplicity and honeſty: nevertheleſs it is not linked in the bond of unity. The men who belong to oppoſite parties ſeldom viſit each other: but, when they happen to meet, they treat each other with all the politeneſs and civility of well-bred people.

The party oppoſed to government—that is to ſay, the party wiſhing for a change in the exiſting conſtitution, a reſtriction in the executive

executive power—has here many zealous adherents. This party would prefer to their own the new French conſtitution, ſuch as it is: and, from the permanency of that conſtitution in France, they derive encouragement to effect a change in the conſtitution of the United States.

The party in the Engliſh intereſt conſider the ſupport of the Engliſh conſtitution, even with all its exiſting abuſes, as the mean of overthrowing the preſent conſtitution of France, and ſubſtituting in its ſtead a monarchy; and alſo as a circumſtance calculated to gratify the deſire which they evidently manifeſt of conferring a great additional ſtrength on the executive power of the United States—as well as the deſire, not leſs real though leſs openly avowed, of ſeeing a hereditary monarchy eſtabliſhed in this country.

Between theſe two extremes there is an intermediate claſs whoſe ſentiments are marked with moderation. There are alſo ſome extravagant enthuſiaſts who blindly embrace the French or the Engliſh party without any ulterior political conſideration,

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and merely through intereſt or paſſion. The commercial body, for inſtance, at Richmond, as almoſt every-where elſe, are excluſively attached to England, becauſe it is with her they have all their dealings, and have no proſpect of credit or profit except by her means: and at Richmond, as in nearly all the trading towns, the commercial body enjoys a certain degree of ſuperiority. During the late diſcuſſion of the treaty in Congreſs, the majority of this town informed their repreſentatives in the national legiſlature that they wiſhed them to vote for its ratification. I have ſeen all ſorts of company, and in none have I heard the preſident mentioned otherwiſe than in terms of reſpect.

Mr. Edmond Randolph, heretofore ſecretary of ſtate to the Union, and become ſo famous in conſequence of Monſieur Fauchet's letter, follows here the profeſſion of a lawyer, to which he had devoted all that part of his life that was not employed in public affairs. He has great practice, and ſtands in that reſpect nearly on a par with Mr. J. Marſhall, the moſt eſteemed and celebrated counſellor in this town.

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The profeſſion of a lawyer is here, as in every other part of America, one of the moſt profitable. But, though the employment be here more conſtant than in Carolina, the practitioner's emoluments are very far from being equally conſiderable. Mr. Marſhall does not from his practice derive above four or five thouſand dollars per annum, and not even that ſum every year. In Virginia the lawyers uſually take care to inſiſt on payment before they proceed in a ſuit; and this cuſtom is juſtified by the general diſpoſition of the inhabitants to pay as little and as ſeldom as poſſible. I have heard phyſicians declare that they do not annually receive one-third of what is due to them for their attendance; that they have ſome of theſe debts of five and twenty years' ſtanding; that their claims are frequently denied; and that, in order to recover payment, they are obliged to ſend writs, carry on law-ſuits, &c. &c. &c.

The derangement of affairs occaſioned by expences exceeding the bounds of income, and eſpecially by gaming—and, above all, the want of delicacy reſulting from that derangement

rangement and from the habit of thinking lightly of debts—are the cauſes of this immoral order of things; and it is in ſome degree encouraged by the laws of the ſtate, which do not allow the ſeizure of lands or other immovable property for the payment of debts. This law, which the Virginians ſay they originally derived from England, has been preſerved by them in all the reforms which they have made in their legal code, and has been preſerved by them alone. Slaves and movable property are ſeizable: but whoever is acquainted with the manners of the country may readily conceive how great the facility of making a feigned ſale of them: and then, by holding them as hired, they are placed beyond the reach of ſeizure.

Gaming is the ruling paſſion of the Virginians: at pharo, dice, billiards, at every imaginable game of hazard, they loſe conſiderable ſums. Gaming-tables are publicly kept in almoſt every town, and particularly at Richmond. Yet a law of the ſtate, enacted no longer ago than in December 1792, expreſsly prohibits all games of hazard, all wagers at horſe-races or cock-fights,

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of which the Virginians are paſſionately fond —forbids the loſing of more than twenty dollars at cards within four and twenty hours —places all the holders of banks on the footing of vagabonds—orders the juſtices of the peace, on the ſlighteſt information, to enter the places where they are held, to break the tables, ſeize the money, &c. &c. Nevertheleſs, to the preſent hour, the greater number of thoſe who enacted that law—of the preſent legiſlators, the juſtices of the peace, and the other magiſtrates—are aſſiduous in their attendance at thoſe feats of gambling. The bank-holders are everywhere received and acknowledged as "gentlemen;" and their profeſſion is envied, as being a very lucrative one. The part of this law which is ſaid to be the moſt punctually executed is that which cancels the debts contracted at the gaming-table, and prohibits the payment of them.

It is not uncommon to witneſs ſcenes of bloodſhed at theſe gaming-houſes. Since my arrival here, a young man, of a family of conſequence in Virginia, fancying, in his impatient heat at a billiard-party, that he had

had reaſon to be diſſatisfied with the behaviour of a marker whom he thought deficient in due reſpect to him,—after diſcharging a volley of abuſe on the man who with much difficulty bore it—thruſt him through the body with a kind of cutlaſs which he wore by his ſide. The marker did not die in conſequence of the wound: but, even if he had, the young man would have equally eſcaped proſecution. The latter has quitted the town for a few days, and will ſhortly reappear, and reſume his uſual purſuits, as if he had been abſent only on account of ill health; although nobody denies the commiſſion of that public act, or attempts to palliate it.

The law againſt inoculation is more rigidly enforced. It prohibits every perſon from having himſelf or any of his family inoculated without permiſſion obtained from all the juſtices of the county, who, on his petition, are to aſſemble, and enquire into the motives of his requeſt, its neceſſity, its propriety. If they acquieſce, their permiſſion, which is to be given in writing, is ſtill of no avail: that of all the neighbours for two miles round

round is moreover required; and the refuſal of a ſingle one prevents the inoculation. Any phyſician who ſhould preſume to inoculate without theſe precautions, would be puniſhed by a fine of ten thouſand dollars. Whoever is accidentally attacked by the ſmall-pox is carried to a lonely houſe in the middle of the woods, and there he receives medical aſſiſtance. If the village, the town, the diſtrict, to which he belongs, catch the infection, theſe places are cut off from all communication with the reſt of the country, and are permitted to have recourſe to inoculation: otherwiſe it is never allowed; for it is eaſy to perceive that the faculty of obtaining permiſſion for the purpoſe by the unanimous vote of the magiſtrates of the county and the general conſent of the neighbours, in a country where prejudices receive ſuch additional ſtrength from the law, is a mere illuſion.

People are often heard to murmur againſt this abſurd law: yet it is punctually obeyed: and nobody can allege as a pretext for this prejudice, that the Virginians are afraid of "tempting God," as was the cant of our prieſts

prieſts in France, who, in this inſtance as in many others, have done all the miſchief in their power. Thoſe who are aſked a reaſon for ſuch a regulation adduce the fear of propagating a dangerous diſeaſe with which they aſſert that Virginia has never been otherwiſe than partially and accidentally infected. They repeat the aſſertions which in Europe had long proved a bar to the extenſion of that admirable diſcovery. They ſay that the practice of inoculation, by rendering the diſeaſe more common, increaſes the number of its victims far beyond what nature intended; that inoculation is itſelf full of dangers; that the attendant expences, which are conſiderable, do not lie within the ability of the poor (for, in Virginia, as elſewhere, ſome *popular* reaſon muſt be given), &c. &c. &c. One is aſtoniſhed to hear from the mouths of enlightened men theſe arguments which the old women of Europe have long ceaſed to repeat. Population does not ſuffer a greater decreaſe in Pennſylvania or the other American ſtates where inoculation is permitted, than in Virginia where it is prohibited: on

the contrary, it daily increaſes. This entire iſolation of the place where the ſmall-pox breaks out, ſuch as the laws of Virginia preſcribe, cannot be carried into effect with all the conditions neceſſary to render it ſalutary. May not the infection be conveyed by the phyſicians, whom the law does not ſubject to quarantine? And might not the neceſſary expences of inoculation, which are known to be ſo moderate, be confined by the provident attention of government to a ſum which no family ſhould feel burdenſome? To all theſe palpable truths no ſolid anſwer is given: yet the advocates of inoculation are far from having any hope of being able to effect an alteration in the law.

I have heard alleged, as the real motive for the regulation, the fear entertained by the planters of being obliged to inoculate their negroes, if the practice of inoculation ſhould become ſo general as to render that precaution neceſſary to preſerve them from the danger of its epidemic ravages. It is difficult to credit ſuch a reaſon, when the expence is ſo trifling, when the proceſs is ſo eaſy, and when beſides they are in the habit

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of not paying their phyſicians. The moſt probable cauſes are heedleſſneſs, want of reflection, and cuſtom. Yet the firſt right of man, that of preſerving his own life, is prohibited by this Gothic legiſlation. Political ſyſtems too often reſemble ſyſtems of religion: each man, according to his private intereſt, frames one for himſelf, which is compoſed of the groſſeſt abſurdities and the moſt glaring contradictions; and his conſcience becomes gradually accuſtomed and reconciled to it.

The civil laws of Virginia have ſtruck me as wiſely ordained. That which relates to perſons dying inteſtate, divides the property equally among the children—aſſigns to the mother one third of the whole—and conducts with great foreſight and juſtice the diviſion of the fortune of the deceaſed in default of children, wife, father, mother, brother, ſiſter, &c. But the freedom of teſtamentary deviſe is allowed to ſubſiſt in unbounded latitude; and the manners of the country almoſt univerſally incline the teſtators rather to follow the ancient cuſtoms, than to regard the intentions of the more recent law; the con-

ſequence of which is that the eldeſt ſon inherits almoſt the whole property, and the males are provided with fortunes at the expence of the females.

The ſlave-laws are much milder here than in any of the other countries through which I have hitherto travelled. Juſtice, I grant, is not the ſame for the maſter as for the ſlave, for the white man and the black. Legiſlation is always partial in this inſtance; but that partiality is a cruel and almoſt unavoidable conſequence of the admiſſion of ſlavery; and this truth ought alone to be ſufficient to occaſion its abolition among an enlightened people who retain any idea of morality. The Virginians have gone farther in reforming the barbarity of the ancient laws reſpecting ſlavery, than any other people of the United States—perhaps than any other nation upon earth where ſlavery prevails in full force.

In 1772 the legiſlature of Virginia petitioned the king of England to authorize the governor to give his ſanction to a law prohibiting all further importation of negroes into the province; and his refuſal to grant

their requeſt is one of the grievances on which the moſt bitter complaints are made againſt his Britiſh majeſty in the preamble to the new conſtitution framed in 1776. Accordingly an act forbidding all future importation of negroes into the ſtate was one of the firſt laws paſſed by the legiſlature after the adoption of the new conſtitution.

A negro who raiſes his hand againſt a white man is acquitted if it be proved that he has done it in ſelf-defence; otherwiſe he receives thirty laſhes. The ſlave is judged by five juſtices of the peace, whoſe unanimous voice is requiſite to paſs ſentence of death. Slaves are called upon to give evidence on the trials of other ſlaves in criminal cauſes; but they are cautioned by the judges, that, if their teſtimony be proved falſe, their ears will be cut off. No man who is in the ſlighteſt degree intereſted either for or againſt a negro is allowed to ſit in judgement on or give evidence againſt him. If juſtice diſpoſes of the perſon of a negro, the owner is paid the full value of his ſlave; a regulation which renders the maſters leſs in-

clined to ſcreen their ſlaves from the ſeverity of the laws.

The courts of juſtice in Virginia are innumerable. The coſts of law are not conſiderable: and in conſequence litigation is frequent. Suits for the recovery of debts occupy above one half of the time allotted for the ſeſſions. The beſt proved debt cannot be recovered within a ſhorter period than eighteen months: and it often happens that ſeveral years are not ſufficient to put the creditor in poſſeſſion of his right. The natural averſion to the payment of debts finds in chicanery a thouſand means of gratifying itſelf: and on that head, here as well as in every other country, the manners of the people aid and ſtrengthen the reſources of chicanery.

Diſputes reſpecting the title to lands are alſo one of the moſt frequent cauſes of lawſuits.

The criminal code is nearly the ſame here as in the other ſtates which have not followed the laudable example of Pennſylvania: it is even ſomewhat milder. It is with pain, however, that one obſerves that the foreigner who

who indents himſelf as a ſervant is liable to the puniſhment of the whip for various offences, even thoſe which only concern his maſter's ſervice. The other puniſhments are, as elſewhere, hanging, whipping, burning in the hand, &c. *

The ſtate of Virginia has no public debt, except a hundred thouſand dollars in which ſhe was found debtor to the Union on the ſettlement of the accounts of the ſtates with the general government—and a claim of between three and four millions of livres, made, on the part of France, by Monſieur de Beaumarchais, for arms and military ſtores of every kind, furniſhed to her during the war. The people here have the juſtice to allow the goodneſs of thoſe ſupplies, and the abſolute neceſſity of them at the time when

* Since the writing of this journal, the legiſlature of Virginia, on the 22d of December 1796, paſſed a law, that now lies before me, by which the puniſhment of death is ſolely confined to caſes of premeditated murder. All other crimes, even that of high treaſon, are puniſhable only by confinement for a ſhorter or a longer term. At length the Pennſylvania ſyſtem, reſpecting the penal code and the management of priſons, is now eſtabliſhed in Virginia.

they were ſent: they even acknowledge the greater part of the debt; nevertheleſs they do not ſeem diſpoſed to give any formal deed of acknowledgement; the ſtate being as little inclined to the payment of debts as the individuals who compoſe it.

The ſtate even poſſeſſes a capital which is eſtimated at above ſixty thouſand dollars. But this capital, which is daily encreaſing, ariſes from a ſource that muſt ſooner or later be productive of diſturbance: it is the grants of land. Purſuant to an exiſting law, the ſtate diſpoſes of vacant lands at the rate of two cents per acre, or twenty dollars for a thouſand acres; which is the uſual proportion of thoſe grants. To obtain ſuch grants, it is ſufficient to declare that the lands for which application is made, and of which the boundaries are deſcribed in the petition, have no owner: whereupon the ſtate—that is to ſay, the land-office, which in this inſtance repreſents the ſtate—grants a warrant, or an order for a ſurvey. The grantee has his grant ſurveyed by the ſtate ſurveyor: it is regiſtered; and a very moderate annual tax which he pays for his land, ſecures to him

him the poſſeſſion of it. But it frequently happens that ſucceſſive applications are made by ſeveral perſons for the ſame land—not preciſely for the ſame tract bounded by the ſame limits—but for a tract, which, having different boundaries, includes a greater or leſſer part of that already granted; of which the remainder is included in another ſimilar application. Theſe again fall under others of the ſame kind in endleſs ſucceſſion; ſo that the ſame identical acres are often claimed by five or ſix grantees, or even more.

The ſtate does not warrant to the grantee that the lands have not already been granted; it is his buſineſs to acquire ſuch information as ſhall ſecure to him the future poſſeſſion of the property. But, in an uninhabited country, with a ſingle office, where lands belonging to the ſtate at large (without any ſubdiviſions into townſhips or counties) are granted, it is impoſſible to acquire the neceſſary information; and men of the moſt upright intentions are often deceived on the occaſion.

The ſpeculators find their account in this obſcurity: and in this kind of ſpeculation, which

which is very prevalent in Virginia, the inhabitants of Pennſylvania and the other northern ſtates take a deep ſhare. The ſtate alſo derives a profit from theſe double or triple ſales, by the money thence accruing. But, beſides that it is the duty of a government to preſerve the governed from impoſition, and ſtill more to abſtain from all participation in the fraud—it is eaſy to foreſee that a time will come when the grantees of thoſe lands, mortified at ſeeing themſelves thus duped, and incenſed by a refuſal on the part of government to refund their money, will carry into that country a new germ of diſcontent, and conſequently of diſturbance.

This ſtate of affairs is generally known at preſent: and accordingly Virginian lands are fallen into diſcredit. The quantity is immenſe: the courſe of annual migration tends rather to diminiſh than increaſe the population of Virginia: thus the period when the uncultivated lands, of which there are very extenſive tracts, ſhall come to be inhabited, is much farther diſtant there than in any other ſtate of the Union. Meanwhile pretty numerous demands are already made

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to the court which is appointed to take cognizance of ſuch affairs; but that court, barely deciding in favour of the oldeſt titles, pronounces the money to be abſolutely loſt which the ſecond or third grantees have paid to the ſtate for their lands, and to the ſurveyors for the expences of ſurveying. Theſe laſt ſums amount to double the price of the purchaſe, that is to ſay, to four cents per acre.

From the condition of the finances of the ſtate of Virginia, it follows that the burdens impoſed on the citizens are, as I have already remarked, by no means heavy. The duty on the inſpection of tobacco tends to render them ſtill lighter. They conſiſt of five ſhillings on every hundred pounds eſtimated value of lands, divided into four claſſes (and the lands are always eſtimated below their real value)—two dollars and one twelfth on every three hundred and thirty-three dollars eſtimated value in city-lots—one ſhilling and eight pence on each ſlave below *

* *Au-deſſous* in the French. Is it not a fault of print for *au-deſſus, above?*

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the age of twelve years, except thoſe who are exempted from taxation by the corporation of the place on account of their infirmities—a ſum on each ſtallion, whether horſe or aſs, equal to the price demanded for his covering—four pence for every other horſe, mare, or mule—forty ſhillings for every ordinary licence—fifty dollars for each billiard-table—ſix ſhillings per wheel on every four-wheeled carriage, except phaëtons and waggons, which pay but four—and ten ſhillings per wheel on every two-wheeled carriage. Such are the taxes voted in the laſt ſeſſion for the expences of 1796. They vary in proportion to the greater or leſſer amount of public expenditure ordered.

Independent of theſe taxes, there are duties impoſed on proceedings in the ſupreme court—on transfers of certificates of the ſurveys of land—on certificates and contracts drawn by notaries—on certificates given by the county courts or thoſe of the towns—and, finally, on certificates paſſing the great ſeal of the ſtate. The valuation of the lands was made in 1781 and 1782,

and

and is permanent. Lands recently granted by the ſtate are ſubject to the tax.

The ſheriffs in the different counties are, by virtue of their office, collectors of all the taxes. They are annually nominated by the governor of the ſtate, from a liſt of three juſtices of the peace, drawn up by the county-courts. They cannot be continued in office above two years. They muſt give ſecurity to the amount of thirty thouſand dollars. They receive a commiſſion of five per cent on the ſums by them collected. The commiſſioners (generally two in each county) who aſſeſs the taxes, receive a dollar per day during the time they devote to that buſineſs. The duties on judicial proceſſes are received by the county clerks, and by the officers who iſſue them.—Every immigrant artiſan who arrives in the ſtate enjoys during five years an exemption from every other tax except that on land, if he follows a trade.—The taxes being light are well paid in Virginia. The ſeizure of movable property, and even of ſlaves, enſures the regular collection of all the funds.—The expences of the government of Virginia annually

annually amount to a hundred and ſixty thouſand dollars.

The counties impoſe no taxes unleſs when they have bridges, priſons, or court-houſes, to build. In ſuch caſes the lands at the value eſtimated for the ſtate-taxes, and the negroes, are taken as data by which to regulate the temporary impoſitions which are deemed neceſſary.—I have already remarked that the roads are made and repaired by the labour of the inhabitants.

The town-taxes are in general confined to thoſe for the ſupport of the poor. At Richmond they embrace a variety of objects: they are impoſed on carriages, and the letting of houſes; they comprize moreover an impoſition of two ſhillings per head on negroes above ſixteen years of age, &c. but they do not in any particular wear the features of an arbitrary capitation-tax, from which ſeveral of the other ſtates are not exempt.

The ſtate of Virginia, like moſt of the other ſtates of the Union, is unprovided with arms for her militia, and cannon for her artillery. The late aſſembly has ordered a yearly

yearly proviſion to be made of four thouſand ſtand of arms with military accoutrements, and ten pieces of cannon. Each artillery company is to have one. The magazine for their reception is appointed to be at Point-of-Fork on James-River; and the arms are fabricated at New-London in Bedford-County.

A wiſe law of Virginia, intended to act on the electors as a ſtimulus to attend the numerous elections held in this ſtate, ſubjects to a double tax all thoſe who abſent themſelves on ſuch occaſions, unleſs they can plead ill health as their apology.

There has not for a conſiderable time been any eſtabliſhment of free ſchools in Virginia. Every thing remained to be done in that reſpect—the diviſion of counties into ſchool-diſtricts—organization of their adminiſtration—erection of ſchool-houſes, &c. A law of the twenty-ſecond of December 1776, has provided for all theſe objects with prudence, foreſight, and conſummate judgement. Some years however muſt yet elapſe before ſuch eſtabliſhments can take place in every part of the ſtate: but the foundations are already

already laid: and we may anticipate the period when the ſyſtem of gratuitous public education will flouriſh in Virginia for the whites, as it does in Maſſachuſetts and Connecticut for all the inhabitants.

The conſtitution of Virginia, framed in 1776, eſtabliſhes the ſame diviſion of powers as the conſtitutions of the other ſtates. Each of the counties, which are eighty-eight in number, ſends two members to the houſe of delegates: Norfolk, Williamſburg, and Richmond, which are privileged towns, ſend one each. They are elected annually. The qualifications for eligibility are, that the candidate poſſeſs the rights of a citizen of Virginia, and have attained the age of twenty-one years.

The ſenate is compoſed of twenty-four members—two for each diſtrict; the ſtate being, for this ſingle purpoſe, divided into twelve imaginary diſtricts. The ſenators are elected for four years; and one quarter of their number annually vacate their ſeats. The age of twenty-five years is required for election into the ſenate. The electors muſt poſſeſs a hundred acres of uncultivated land,

land, or twenty-five acres under cultivation, or a houſe or lot in a town.

The governor, the executive council (without whoſe concurrence he can do nothing), the judges of the ſupreme court, the attorney-general, the treaſurer, the director of the land-office, and the commander in chief of the militia, are choſen by ballot by both houſes.

The governor is elected for one year, and cannot continue in office above three years in ſeven. The executive council is compoſed of eight members, two of whom are removed every three years by a ballot of both houſes, and are not re-eligible during the three years next enſuing. The preſident of the executive council, who is elected by the council itſelf, acts as governor of the ſtate in caſe of the death, incapacity, or abſence, of the governor.

The judges continue in office during good behaviour.—The treaſurer is appointed only for one year, but is re-eligible.

The juſtices of the peace are propoſed by the county-courts to the governor, who appoints them without the power of rejection.

The ſubordinate officers of juſtice are nominated by the courts to which they belong, and the conſtables by the juſtices of the peace.

The governor cannot give his opinion on the laws: he cannot grant a pardon without the conſent of his council. Of all the ſtates of the Union, Virginia is that in which the governor poſſeſſes the leaſt power, and the ſalaries of office are the loweſt. The public functionaries here receive very ſlender remunerations: and accordingly employments are habitually refuſed by the very men who are beſt qualified to hold them, but who, by accepting them, would loſe a conſiderable portion of the income which they can derive from their profeſſions, and who thus could lay up no reſerve for the eſtabliſhment of their families.

This conſtitution, framed during the war with the mother-country, is preceded by a preamble enumerating the grievances with which Virginia ſo juſtly reproached the **** government.

The organization of the judicial ſyſtem is more complex in Virginia than elſewhere. Each

Each county has a monthly court: four or five counties conſtitute a diſtrict, where are held the circuit-courts, the general court, orphans' court, chancellor's court, &c. &c. The Virginians are unanimous in aſſerting that the ſeats of judges are, with a few exceptions, very ill filled: and among the exceptions they mention the poſt of chancellor, held by Mr. Whyte, who enjoys the general eſteem. Thoſe who are better qualified to fill the places of judges refuſe them becauſe they are laborious and productive of little profit.

Perfect freedom of religion is allowed by the laws of Virginia: but few nations are leſs addicted to religious practices than the Virginians. At Richmond there is no church. Prayers are ſometimes read in the Capitol, in one of the halls deſtined for the legiſlature: and then they are read by an epiſcopalian clergyman, becauſe thoſe who call themſelves members of that profeſſion are more numerous than the others. Meetings of anabaptiſts, methodiſts, and even quakers, are more regularly held, but in private houſes, as none of thoſe ſects have any public build-

ing appropriated to the practice of their religion.

The colonization of Virginia, or rather its firſt ſettlement, dates from the year 1584, at which period Queen Elizabeth granted to Sir Walter Raleigh the property of all the lands he could diſcover beyond the ſeas, uninhabited by any Chriſtian nation. This property extended to the diſtance of two hundred leagues from any habitations which the new colony might eſtabliſh within ſix years. The queen reſerved for herſelf only a fifth part of the produce of any gold or ſilver mines which might be diſcovered. It was in the iſle of Roanoke, which now conſtitutes a part of North-Carolina, that the new ſettlers firſt landed: and hence they afterward proceeded to Hatoraſk in the bay of Cheſapeak. This eſtabliſhment, which was not aided by any public aſſiſtance from England, already coſt Sir Walter Raleigh forty thouſand pounds ſterling. He was therefore obliged to form a partnerſhip with Thomas Smith and other adventurers, to whom, in return for conſiderable ſums of money received from them, he granted an unlimited freedom of trade

trade and a ſhare in the proprietorſhip. But in 1603 Sir Walter was arreſted by order of the Engliſh court; and it has never ſince been known what became of the ſmall number of coloniſts at that time ſettled in his immenſe grant.

From the misfortunes of Sir Walter Raleigh ſome rich proprietors and merchants of London, who were jealous of his poſſeſſion, conceived the idea that he had no longer any claim to it: and this opinion received confirmation from the conduct of king James, who, by letters patent, granted to Sir Thomas Gates, the Earl of Saliſbury, and ſome others, for themſelves and their heirs, all the lands of Virginia, to the extent of two hundred miles north and ſouth of Point Comfort, together with the adjacent iſlands within a hundred miles of the coaſt, &c. &c. This company was incorporated under the name of "treaſurers and company of adventurers and planters of the city of London for the firſt colony in Virginia." This patent, iſſued in 1609, granted and allowed freedom of commerce with England, exemption from all taxes, and the rights of an

Engliſh ſubject, to every perſon born in the new colony. The council, which was to ſit in London for the direction of the enterprize, was choſen by the nomination of the company. Never was patent granted in ſuch extenſive latitude.

The Indians, as in every other inſtance, aſſiſted the riſing colony: they had ſhown themſelves equally kind and hoſpitable to Sir Walter Raleigh: but here alſo, as everywhere elſe, they in the end became objects of perſecution; and wars between them and the coloniſts ſhook and diſturbed the new ſettlement.

In 1621, a ſort of conſtitution had been given to the colony by the company who were its proprietors. This conſtitution appointed an annual aſſembly compoſed of two repreſentatives from each town, plantation, or hundred—a privy council nominated by the company—and a governor, alſo of their nomination, who poſſeſſed a negative on the laws propoſed by the aſſembly.

In 1622, Charles the Firſt, diſſatisfied with the conduct of the company, took the government of the colony into his own hands,

in

in violation of the charter granted by his predeceſſor, which deprived him of that right. This change of maſters, however, did not affect either the rights or the opinions of the coloniſts.

It was under the reign of Charles the Firſt that Lords Baltimore and Fairfax obtained a diſmemberment of the juriſdiction, government, and territory, of Virginia.

In 1650, after the depoſition of that prince, the Engliſh parliament forbade the colonies to carry on any commerce with foreign nations: and this was the firſt ſtep in that prohibitory ſyſtem, of which the ſupport and the conſequences have ſince been attended with the loſs to England of her colonies in North America.

The colony of Virginia for ſome time refuſed to acknowledge the authority of Cromwell and the republican parliament: but in 1651 the coloniſts laid down their arms, and received from parliament a new charter confirming them in the enjoyment of all their former rights, except the poſſeſſion of that portion of their territory antecedently granted to Lords Baltimore and Fairfax. But, after

the reſtoration of royalty in England, the ſucceeding kings paid no greater reſpect to this charter than Charles the Firſt had ſhown to the former. The aſſembly was now divided into two houſes: appeals were carried from the tribunals of Virginia to London: the prohibition of foreign trade was again enforced—the territory of Virginia diminiſhed—the inhabitants of the colony thrown into priſon, tranſported to England, &c. &c.

Virginia, thinking herſelf more ſeverely aggrieved by England than any other of the American colonies, was one of the firſt to take a part in the revolution: and no one of the ſtates made more vigorous efforts, expended greater ſums, or diſplayed more ſignal energy, to accompliſh that happy object.

DEPARTURE FROM RICHMOND.—MANCHESTER.—JOURNEY TO PETERSBURG.

The bridge that unites Richmond to Manchester is one of the worſt and moſt dangerous of all poſſible bridges. In its length it is divided

divided by two iſlands: but, from one end to the other, it is nothing better than an irregular aſſemblage of unjoined unfaſtened planks laid upon joiſts which bend in conſequence of their length, and which themſelves reſt on piers, partly of wood partly of ſtone, the tottering remains of a ſomewhat better bridge that was deſtroyed a few years ſince by an extraordinary ſwell of the river. Theſe remnants of the former piers are moreover of unequal height, ſo that this bridge poſſeſſes every imaginable characteriſtic of inſolidity. It is called a temporary bridge, becauſe the people talk of building another: but the ſame thing has been ſaid for the laſt five or ſix years, during which period the paſſage has continued in its preſent ſtate. There are not even any funds pointed out for that object; and it would require conſiderable ſums to erect the intended bridge in ſuch manner as to ſecure it againſt thoſe annual freſhes which are very powerful, and which acquire additional violence in paſſing the falls, at the foot of which the bridge ſtands. Thoſe yearly ſwells of the river, particularly at the cloſe of winter, riſe from twenty-

twenty-five to thirty feet in height.—In addition to its other defects, this wretched bridge is unprovided with rails or parapets: and not a year passes without witnessing some melancholy accidents in consequence.

Manchester is a very neat little village, well built, and standing on a very gentle declivity. Gardens and trees abound within it, and it presents, as I have before observed, a beautiful prospect from Richmond. But the country over which a traveller passes on his way from Manchester to Petersburg, is flat, and for the most part barren: very little culture appears; but an almost uninterrupted succession of woods, broken however by here and there some fields which yield four or five bushels of wheat per acre, or from eight to ten of Indian corn. These fields are never manured; hardly even are they ploughed; and it seldom happens that their owners for two successive years exact from them these scanty crops.

Osborne's, at the distance of fifteen miles from Richmond, is the only village on the road. It is situate on the bank of a river which winds in numerous mæanders. From

Osborne's

Oſborne's to Peterſburg, the face of the country continues the ſame: it preſents indeed a ſomewhat greater number of log-houſes, but every where exhibits the features of lazineſs, of ignorance, and conſequently of poverty. Although a great part of theſe lands be naturally bad, nevertheleſs, with greater induſtry and more judicious management, they might be cultivated to advantage; for they produce trees of tolerable height and good quality.

PETERSBURG.

Peterſburg is built on the Appomattox. At the town and ten miles below it, this river is but four or five feet deep. The veſſels therefore which can come up to Peterſburg are ſtill inferior in point of tonnage to thoſe which can go up to Richmond. Broad-bay, eight miles below Peterſburg, is the place where the veſſels are loaded.

The trade of Peterſburg is ſimilar to that of Richmond: but, as this town lies nearer to North-Carolina, it receives a greater quantity, than the other, of the produce of that

that ſtate, ſuch as wheat, tobacco, ſalt proviſions, and ſome hemp. Its exportations are for the ſame reaſon more conſiderable than thoſe of Richmond, although, generally ſpeaking, the produce it receives is inferior in quality. Tobacco, for inſtance, which ſells at Richmond for ſix or ſeven dollars the hundred weight, does not fetch quite five at Peterſburg. The cauſe of this difference is the ſuperiority of the ſoil, and it is ſaid alſo of the cultivation, in the lands on the banks of James-River and to the right of it, where grows the tobacco that is almoſt excluſively carried to Richmond. The price of tobacco has experienced a riſe of two fifths within the laſt two or three years, becauſe the increaſed price of wheat has induced the planters to appropriate to the culture of that grain conſiderable tracts of land which were before devoted to the raiſing of tobacco, and the two laſt crops of this plant have moreover been very indifferent.

Flour-mills are more numerous at Peterſburg and in its vicinity than at Richmond: but, if we may judge of the flour that is exported, by that of which they make the

the bread that is eaten in the beſt houſes and even at the tables of the mill-owners, it muſt be very far inferior to that of Philadelphia. It is not white; and the millers ſay that good wheat is difficult to be procured. The grain which I have ſeen of the preſent crop—for the harveſt is every-where nearly finiſhed—is ſmall and light. Nevertheleſs the flour ſells at thirteen and even fourteen dollars; and the millers of Peterſburg, expecting a further encreaſe in the price, paid, two months ſince, ſo high as two dollars and half per buſhel for wheat, even for very conſiderable quantities. The intelligence from Europe, however, threatens them with a prodigious diſcount on the expected profits of their ſpeculation; ſince there has lately arrived at Boſton a veſſel which had ſailed from Norfolk in February, and which has brought back to America her cargo of three thouſand barrels of flour, for which ſhe could not obtain above eight dollars per barrel either in France or England. That article has recently been ſold for ſeven and half at Alexandria and Norfolk.

At Peterſburg, as well as at Richmond, the mills

mills are upon a good conſtruction. Five buſhels of wheat yield a barrel of firſt flour: ſix are required to produce a barrel of ſuperfine flour, excluſive of the ſecond flour, the pollard, and bran. The miller's claim is one eighth; ſometimes, when buſineſs is dull with him, he contents himſelf with a tenth. By the way, it appears that the dexterity of the Virginian millers in making the moſt of their griſt is in no wiſe inferior to that of the millers in Europe.

Peterſburg is a tolerably neat little town, built along the river-ſide, only two ſtreets deep, and a mile and half in extent, on a hill of pretty rapid elevation. Blandford, which is now united with Peterſburg into one corporation, is the part which is more remarkable for elegant and well-built houſes.

Society at Peterſburg appears polite, obliging, and hoſpitable. Political opinion, divided here as every-where elſe, is by a great majority in favour of oppoſition. This difference of ſentiments however is leſs productive here, than at Richmond, of diſunion between the individuals of oppoſite parties. Colonel Peachy, Doctor Stone, Mr. Euſtis, brother to

my

my friend Doctor Euſtis of Boſton, Major Gibbon, Mr. Campbell, are the perſons in whoſe company I have oftenest been during my ſhort ſtay in this town. The laſt-mentioned gentleman has lately married Mademoiſelle de la Porte, a French lady, niece to Monſieur de Tubeuf, who, after having ſettled about three years ſince in the back country of Virginia, was there murdered by two Iriſhmen, who ſuppoſed him to be poſſeſſed of a great deal of money.

The prices of the neceſſaries of life are nearly the ſame here as at Richmond: and Peterſburg is equally deſtitute of churches.

PRESQU'ILE, Mr. DAVIES RANDOLPH's PLANTATION.

At Peterſburg I had met Mr. Davies Randolph, for whom I had a letter; and, in conſequence of his invitation, I went to his houſe and there ſpent a day. He lives at City-Point or Bermuda-Hundred, the place where the river Appomattox diſcharges its ſtream into James-River. Here the water is ſufficiently deep to admit ſhips of any

any tonnage: and this in the place where the larger veſſels diſcharge their cargoes into lighters, and thus forward to Richmond and Peterſburg the merchandize which they have brought. City-Point is the ſpot where the cuſtom-houſe is eſtabliſhed for thoſe two places. If the towns of Richmond and Peterſburg had been erected at City-Point, their commerce would have been more conſiderable, their intercourſe with Europe more direct, and Norfolk would not, as now is the caſe, have engroſſed almoſt the entire trade of that part of Virginia. But City-Point lies low, and is ſurrounded by ſwamps. The air in the vicinity is not ſalubrious; and, in all probability, the detriment which the inhabitants muſt have ſuffered in point of health would have been ſufficient to counterbalance the advantage of ſuperior opulence.

At a half-mile from the cuſtom-houſe ſtands the habitation of Mr. Davies Randolph, in one of thoſe long windings which James-River forms in this part: from which circumſtance it is that this plantation bears the name of Preſqu'île (or Peninſula).

Mr. Davies Randolph is fully entitled to the

the reputation which he enjoys of being the beſt farmer in the whole country. He poſſeſſes ſeven hundred and fifty acres of land, of which three hundred and fifty are at preſent ſuſceptible of cultivation; the reſt are all ſwampy grounds, which may probably be drained at a conſiderable expence, but which have not yet undergone that proceſs. Eight negroes (of whom two are little better than children), two horſes, and four oxen, cultivate thoſe three hundred and fifty acres, which he has divided into fields of forty acres incloſed. Of thoſe three hundred and fifty acres, only forty, which are ſubdivided into ſix portions, are alternately dunged; the remainder never has been ſo.

The common rotation of culture in the country is, Indian corn, wheat, fallow, and thus again in regular ſucceſſion. The lands produce from five to eight buſhels of wheat per acre, and from twelve to fifteen of Indian corn, according to their quality. Mr. Randolph has deviated from this ſyſtem of culture on his eſtate: that which he purſues is as follows—Indian corn, oats, wheat, rye, fallow; and he raiſes from ten to twelve

buſhels of wheat per acre, and from eighteen to twenty-five of Indian corn. The riſe in the price of wheat has induced him to vary the rotation of his crops, and to ſubſtitute that of wheat, oats or rye, wheat, two years' fallow. By purſuing this method, he reaps from thirteen to ſixteen buſhels of wheat. He ſeparately cultivates the Indian corn in one or two fields according to his former rotation. He has proved by experience that manuring with dung triples the produce. His lands are good; and, compared with the reſt of the country, they are kept in very excellent condition, though very indifferently in compariſon with the moſt ordinary huſbandry of Europe. He keeps no cows except for the purpoſes of the dairy, and to furniſh him with calves for his own conſumption. His cows are very fine, and of his own rearing. His labouring oxen are of a ſmall breed; and it is thought in the country that thoſe of larger ſize could not ſtand the heat. He purchaſes thoſe labouring oxen at thirty dollars the pair. Mr. Randolph feeds thirty ſheep, but merely for the ſupply of his own table.

He

He declares that each of his negroes laſt year produced to him, after all expences paid, a net ſum of three hundred dollars, although he ſold his wheat for no more than a dollar the buſhel. He expected that they would this year have cleared him four hundred dollars each: but the fall in the prices of produce will diſappoint his hopes.

The ſituation of his houſe gives him alſo the means of annually ſelling eight or nine hundred dollars' worth of fiſh—ſturgeon, ſhad, and herrings, which he ſalts.

His ſwampy grounds ſupply him with abundance of timber for fuel and fences: but they produce a ſtill greater abundance of noxious exhalations which prove a ſource of frequent and dangerous diſeaſes. Mr. Randolph is himſelf very ſickly; and his young and amiable wife has not enjoyed one month of good health ſince ſhe firſt came to live on this plantation. Accordingly Mr. Randolph intends to quit it, and remove to Richmond, where moreover he has frequent buſineſs in conſequence of his office, which is that of marſhal to the ſtate. He wiſhes to ſell this plantation, which, in the worſt years,

has brought him in eighteen hundred dollars, and which, for the laſt two years, has yielded him three thouſand five hundred. It is in very good condition: but he cannot find a purchaſer for it at the ſum of twenty thouſand dollars, which he demands. This fact furniſhes a proper idea of the low price of land in Virginia. I have been aſſured, that, although ſome of the lands have doubled their value during the laſt twenty years, a much greater portion have fallen in their price.

BERMUDA-HUNDRED—EXPORTATIONS FROM RICHMOND AND PETERSBURG.

During my ſtay at the houſe of Mr. Davies Randolph I had an opportunity of learning, with ſome degree of minuteneſs, the amount and value of the exports from Bermuda-Hundred or City-Point, the emporium and cuſtom-houſe of the two towns of Richmond and Peterſburg. I received the details of particulars from Mr. Helt, the collector of the cuſtoms at that place.

Statement

Statement of the Exportations from Bermuda-Hundred or City-Point.

Years.	Flour.		Indian corn, including meal.		Wheat.		Tobacco.		Other articles.	Total value.
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Value.	
	Barrels.	Dollars.	Bushels.	Dollars.	Bushels.	Dollars.	Hogsheads.	Dollars.	Dollars.	Dollars.
1791.	10,090	48,125	21,180	6,354	165,635	137,477	29,994	1,029,876	41,293	1,263,126
1792.	10,708	54,653	47,722	14,316	75,146	67,382	27,660	1,075,447	24,771	1,236,571
1793.	28,877	164,018	262	133	88,115	99,783	15,043	556,584	25,000	845,620
1794.	5,853	30,904	2,097	1,153	31,212	32,252	11,995	443,828	13,317	521,456
1795.	8,102	81,753	33,358	33,301	....	....	9,475	375,826	16,365	507,306
first six months of 1796.	3,500	48,488	....	....	....	....	4,473	293,456	12,704	354,650

REMARKS ON THE FOREGOING TABLE.

In the column of flour, the ſeconds and even the pollards are included with that of the firſt quality.

From the different ſtatements included in the above table, it reſults,

1°. That, during the laſt five years and half, the ſeveral articles have individually riſen more or leſs in price, but all in general very conſiderably.

2°. That the exportation of tobacco has undergone a diminution of one half, in point of quantity; but that the article has doubled in value.

3°. That the quantity of flour has exceſſively diminiſhed, at leaſt ſo far as regards the direct exportation: for it is certain that the greateſt quantity is exported by the way of Baltimore.

4°. That the exportation of wheat has dwindled to nothing: a circumſtance which, excluſive of the ſame common cauſe that has contributed to diminiſh the exportation of

of flour, has moreover for its particular reaſon the number of mills which are daily erected in Virginia.

RETURN TO RICHMOND — FURTHER OBSERVATIONS ON THAT TOWN.

Monſieur Guillemard had accompanied me to Preſqu'île; and we returned together by the ſame road which we had travelled on the preceding day.

Mr. Hopkins, commiſſioner of the loan-office of the United States—Monſieur Chevalier, his brother-in-law, of whom I have already made mention—Doctor Maclue, a native of Scotland, a phyſician of high repute, and a well-informed man—Governor Brooke—Mr. John Marſhall—Mr. Campbell—Doctor Foulchie, with whom the affairs of one of my friends brought me acquainted—Meſſrs. Brown and Burton, Engliſh merchants—are the perſons with whom I was moſt frequently in company at Richmond. The political opinions of thoſe ſeveral gentlemen are extremely different: but in the ſocial circle there prevails among them a

degree of politeneſs which would prevent a ſtranger from perceiving that difference if he were not previouſly apprized of it.

There are no doubt at Richmond, as in every other part of Virginia, a certain number of individuals, who, diſſatisfied with the commercial treaty, carry their reſentment of it to an exceſſive length, and would wiſh for ſuch a change in the conſtitution of the United States as ſhould render it more democratic: but I have never heard even the moſt violent of that claſs expreſs a wiſh for ſeparation or diſunion: and indeed it muſt be confeſſed, that, under the preſent mediocrity of wealth in the ſtate of Virginia, the paucity of her population in proportion to her extent, and her backwardneſs in point of agricultural improvement, the inhabitants could not reaſonably entertain a deſire of ſuch an event.

Mr. J. Marſhall, conſpicuouſly eminent as a profeſſor of the law, is beyond all doubt one of thoſe who rank higheſt in the public opinion at Richmond. He is what is termed a federaliſt, and perhaps at times ſomewhat warm in ſupport of his opinions, but never exceeding

exceeding the bounds of propriety, which a man of his goodneſs and prudence and knowledge is incapable of tranſgreſſing. He may be conſidered as a diſtinguiſhed character in the United States. His political enemies allow him to poſſeſs great talents, but accuſe him of ambition. I know not whether the charge be well or ill grounded, or whether that ambition might ever be able to impel him to a dereliction of his principles—a conduct of which I am inclined to diſbelieve the poſſibility on his part. He has already refuſed ſeveral employments under the general government, preferring the income derived from his profeſſional labours (which is more than ſufficient for his moderate ſyſtem of economy), together with a life of tranquil eaſe in the midſt of his family and in his native town. Even by his friends he is taxed with ſome little propenſity to indolence: but even if this reproach were well founded, he nevertheleſs diſplays great ſuperiority in his profeſſion when he applies his mind to buſineſs.

DEPARTURE

DEPARTURE FROM RICHMOND FOR THE MOUNTAINS. DOVER COAL-MINE.

On the 20th of June, Mr. Guillemard and myſelf ſet out for the mountains; Monticello, the habitation of Mr. Jefferſon, was the object of this part of our journey. Meſſrs. Graham and Havans, merchants of Richmond, and owners of a coal-mine, were ſo kind as to conduct us thither. This mine is ſcarcely wrought. Several pits have been ſunk, and relinquiſhed again, in hopes of diſcovering coals of a ſuperior quality, and in greater abundance, in other places. It appears to be very rich, and to form a part of the ſame bed which is found in the environs, and has been worked for many years on the weſt ſide of the river. But theſe gentlemen, who are neither chemiſts nor mechanicians, are content to grope their way without applying for advice to more enlightened men; for there is not one perſon throughout America verſed in the art of working mines *.

* The Duke muſt apply this obſervation to the natives; for many Europeans, ſkilled in the working of mines, have certainly emigrated to America. *Tranſlator.*

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This is one of the objects, in regard to which literary societies might render themselves extremely useful in the United States. They might easily insert in the public papers extracts of the best works, written in English, French, and German, on this science, which has been brought to such perfection in Europe. Nor would it be an arduous task to hold on this head, as on all subjects of universal utility, a correspondence with men of letters in Europe. The publication of this correspondence, would introduce into America a knowledge of the progress and discoveries made in the science of mines, and all the unpleasant trouble and ruinous expence of fruitless experiments would be prevented.

Messrs. Graham and Havans employ about five hundred negroes in this mine, and the business of the farm, in the province of which it is situated. In the lowest ground the vein runs one hundred and twenty feet below the surface, and is, in general, twenty-four feet thick. The ground from the surface down to the vein consists of a good red and yellow clay, interspersed with stone, easily

eaſily reducible to duſt. The vein is enveloped in a ſmall layer of imperfect ſlate, and reſts on a bed of granite; a circumſtance, which, in the opinion of my friend, Mr. Guillemard, muſt puzzle all the naturaliſts of Europe. The coals of this mine, and indeed of all thoſe which have hitherto been opened in this country, are very ſmall, and the moſt ſolid pieces which can be obtained crumble into duſt at the ſlighteſt ſhock, ſo that they are more adapted to be uſed in the forges of ſmiths, than to be burned in grates. Some veins, it is ſuppoſed, contain more ſolid coals; if this ſhould be the caſe, the mine would prove far more profitable for the owners: but this ſuppoſition remains as yet a matter of mere conjecture.

This farm, compoſed of three hundred and fifty acres of land, which is for the moſt part of the very beſt quality, and containing a mine, the exiſtence of which was not unknown to the vender, brought three years ago no more than five thouſand three hundred and thirty-three dollars, which makes about eighteen dollars per acre. The farm is managed in the common ſtyle of the country,

country, that is, very badly; but as it chiefly conſiſts of low grounds, the crops are in general better than on other eſtates, where the culture of the ſoil is equally neglected.

The road from Richmond to Dover (this is the name of the place where the mine is found) lies through woods of a middling quality; the ſoil is poor, and partly cultivated, though in a very indifferent manner. The houſes are ſmall, bad, and not numerous. They are inhabited by white people, who do not ſeem to be in eaſy circumſtances.

On paſſing the creek of Fuckehoe, you quit the county of Henrico, in which Richmond is ſituated, and enter that of Goochland.

GOOCHLAND COURT-HOUSE.

The country between Dover and Goochland court-houſe, where we ſtopped at night, is more variegated than before; you find there more heights, and ſome fine proſpects, eſpecially on Mount Pleaſant, which commands a wide extenſive vale, entirely cleared, and full of houſes, and clumps of trees, which

which have been left ſtanding near the habitations, and in the middle of the fields.

This day was a court-day at Goochland. The juſtices of the peace of the county meet here every month for the adminiſtration of juſtice. The ſeſſion aſſembles here, beſides the neighbouring judges, lawyers, and parties whoſe cauſes are to be tried, numbers of idle people who come leſs from a deſire to learn what is going forwards than to drink together.

It was near nine o'clock at night when I arrived, before Mr. Guillemard. The company was about to break up; the accounts were ſettled; every one had already mounted his horſe, and nothing prevented their ſeparation but the irreſolution and prattle common to drunken people, and the uſual attachment between them when they meet to get intoxicated together. By my manner of talking Engliſh to the landlord, the company eaſily diſcerned that I was a Frenchman. Immediately they jumped all off their horſes, pulled me down from mine, claſped me in their arms, and exclaimed—"You are a Frenchman—well, you are our friend, our dear

dear friend; we would all of us die for every Frenchman; we are good republicans, we would kill all the Engliſh; that would be an excellent thing, would not it? Oh, our friend, our dear friend!"—"He is a Frenchman," they ſaid to each other, "the brave dear gentleman is a Frenchman! But as you are a Frenchman, you muſt drink ſome grog with us."—They embraced me, pulled me about in every direction, and ſhook me by the hand.—"Do pray tell us what we can do for you; you are our brother." I was overwhelmed by their number and careſſes to ſuch a degree, that I was hardly able to bring my foot to the ground. Although their drunken profeſſions were rather of too ſentimental a complexion, yet I could not be diſpleaſed with their purpoſe and intention; on the contrary, in this reſpect they gave me great ſatisfaction. I anſwered them as well as circumſtances would admit: but my anſwer, as may be eaſily conceived, was drowned in the noiſe of their joyful profeſſions. During this time arrived a large bowl of grog, and we drank one after another, toaſting the French, France, America, Virginia,

ginia, and M. de la Fayette, whoſe name they mentioned with enthuſiaſm. In ſpite of my little diſpoſition for drinking, I was obliged two or three times to drink in my turn; for it was abſolutely neceſſary to empty the bowl. It was with great difficulty I prevented the arrival of a ſecond; and the inn-keeper having told them that the Frenchman (ſpeaking of me) had made a long journey, and conſequently wanted repoſe, I was at length able to diſengage myſelf from the officious hands of theſe good people, who would all take me home, ten, fifteen, or twenty miles diſtant from the place of our meeting.

Another circumſtance which favoured our ſeparation, was the tragic return of one of the gueſts, who had left the company before my arrival to fight another drunkard. This poor young man, who arrived in his battle-array, that is, quite naked, was covered with blood from a blow which tore away a part of his ear, and from another on his eye, which ſeemed ſtarting out of his head. The tender affections of my friends were now turned towards their wounded companion,

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and I rejoined Mr. Guillemard, who had arrived during the feſtive reception which I experienced; but hearing that the Engliſh were rather ſeverely treated, did not think it convenient to join us.

In Virginia, where the villages are leſs numerous than in other parts, and inns very ſcarce, there is generally one adjoining the Court-Houſe, without which the juſtices, lawyers, and parties, would have no means to procure either a bed or food. We were very well lodged in the houſe deſtined for the judges, where we ſhared the parlour with three counſellors, very civil and ſober men, and good companions. Their ſentiments in favour of France and her ſucceſſes, clothed in language more ſenſible than that of my firſt acquaintances in the place, bore a ſtrong appearance of ſincerity and candour. They told us, that, by what they had learned, France had demanded of America twenty thouſand troops to aſſiſt her in the preſervation of her colonies in the Weſt Indies, and they entertained no doubt but that America, mindful of her obligations to France, would readily comply with the

demand. It is evident that theſe good gentlemen were by no means poſſeſſed of correct information relative to the diſpoſition of their government, and over-rated the extent of national gratitude. However this may be, you hear in Virginia the ſame language expreſſive of attachment to France, of hatred and eſpecially of diſtruſt in regard to England, an of affection for M. de la Fayette, which you meet with in every other part of the United States that is not ſituated in the immediate vicinity of great towns, and places abſorbed in mercantile ſpeculations. In general, the inhabitants of the country, and thoſe of large towns—thoſe who live at a conſiderable diſtance from the ſea-coaſt, and thoſe who belong to trading places—are two deſcriptions of people altogether diſtinct from each other in point of manners and opinions. The truth of this remark, which is obvious in all countries, is more ſtrikingly ſo in America, where the people are only divided into the two claſſes of traders and cultivators, where trade and commerce, which are almoſt entirely in the hands of England, naturally find their

intereſts

intereſts interwoven with thoſe of that kingdom, and where the merchants and traders acting upon this principle, and poſſeſſed of that powerful influence which is generally derived from ſuperior wealth, form, as it were, a diſtinct nation within a nation; while, on the other hand, the country people, attached by their own intereſts to the proſperity of that country only which they inhabit, deſire it ſincerely and excluſively, and are merely liable to thoſe errors into which ignorance may betray their good diſpoſition.

M. DE RIEUX. BIRD-ORDINARY.

The road grows ſtill duller after you leave Goochland Court-Houſe. It is every where ſurrounded with woods, and the eye diſcerns no difference of hills and dales but that of the road, from its riſes and falls. The plantations become conſtantly leſs frequent, and leſs extenſive; and cultivation is ſtill more confined. Inns are very ſcarce on this road; the next is nearly ſeventeen miles diſtant from that where we paſſed

the night. I went a mile farther on to ſtop at one which I knew was kept by a Frenchman, whoſe houſe, I had alſo learned, was lately deſtroyed by fire. This Frenchman formerly kept a ſtore at Charlotte-Ville. Having there experienced misfortunes not occaſioned by miſconduct, he eſtabliſhed himſelf where he now is, on the ſtrength of an aſſurance which had been given him, that, from the general diſſatisfaction expreſſed at the management of the neighbouring inn, his houſe would be much frequented by travellers. In this he has not been deceived; they all put up at his inn. The unfortunate fire, in which he loſt all his furniture and ſtock in trade, which he eſtimates at upwards of fifteen hundred dollars, is attributed to his great ſucceſs, and the jealouſy excited by it in the breaſt of the miſtreſs of the rival neighbouring inn. His name is *Plumard de Rieux*, and he is a native of Nantes. If he belongs, as he ſays, to the family of Rieux, which however appears not to be the caſe from his name Plumard, he would appertain to one of thoſe to which ancient opinions aſſigned the firſt rank in France.

France. He is brother of a lieutenant in the navy, who, ſharing the political ſentiments of the ancient navy, has refuſed to ſerve ſince the beginning of the revolution. M. de Rieux married in America the daughter of Mr. Mazzei an Italian, who had ſettled on that continent, and who during the revolution acted the part of a zealous republican, but afterwards returned to Europe, where, from his reputation of being a friend of liberty, he was appointed *chargé d'affaires* at Paris by the King and the Republic of Poland.—He has ſince, it is ſaid, retired to Piſa.

Madame de Rieux is young and amiable, and poſſeſſes a well-informed mind. M. de Rieux is beloved and reſpected by all who know him; he ſupports with courage and gaiety all them is fortunes which have happened to him. A very conſiderable inheritance has been lately left to him by an aunt, who remained in France and enjoyed his eſtates. He hopes to obtain this inheritance, yet he is at the ſame time aware, that under the preſent circumſtances there is as much probability againſt as in favour of his

wiſh, although he left France long before the revolution.

I felt at M. de Rieux's what I always experience on meeting with good, honeſt, and ſenſible Frenchmen, a ſatisfaction and intereſt which I never feel in America under any other circumſtances. Is it prejudice, is it weakneſs? It may be ſo, but it is what I conſtantly experience, what I have always experienced in foreign countries, even previouſly to the calamitous events of the revolution, and what I feel diſpoſed alſo to experience in future. Ah! how conſoling would it prove on meeting with an honeſt and unfortunate countryman, ſurrounded by a wife and numerous family, to promote by a loan of ſome value the reſtoration of his proſperity, without wounding the delicacy of his feelings. The loſs of an enjoyment of this nature is not the leaſt painful reſult of ſevere misfortunes in point of property and wealth.

M. de Rieux only tenants the houſe which he inhabits, and the three hundred and fifty acres of land that belong to it, and pays for the whole a yearly rent of ninety-eight dollars.

lars. This affords an additional proof of the moderate value of land in Virginia, as that which he cultivates is very good.

After having ſpent nearly the whole day at M. de Rieux's, we went ten miles farther on to *Bird-ordinary*, where we ſtopped for the night. Plantations become now leſs frequent and poorer; yet all theſe planters, however wretched their condition, have all of them one or two negroes. Theſe ſlaves, who are in general well treated in Virginia, are upon the whole much more ſo by theſe poor farmers, who ſhare with them the toils of the fields, and who, although they do not clothe and feed them well, yet treat them, in this reſpect, as well as they do themſelves: while on the plantations of wealthy coloniſts the negroes are allowed meat but ſix times a-year, and ſubſiſt entirely on Indian corn, and ſometimes on butter-milk.

MILFORD;

A very ſmall village, built within theſe few years on the Rivanna, a rivulet which empties itſelf into James-River. Before

you reach the village you croſs Melhaneck-Creek, which flows into the Rivanna. They are both fordable, but the fords are frequently rendered very dangerous, nay impaſſable, by a ſudden riſe of the waters, at leaſt for ſome hours; for the inclination of their beds is ſo conſiderable, that in leſs than half a day they return to their uſual depth, which is only three feet.

MONTICELLO. MR. JEFFERSON; HIS AGRICULTURAL SYSTEM COMPARED WITH THAT OF THE COUNTRY.

Monticello is ſituated four miles from Milford, in that chain of mountains which ſtretches from James-River to the Rappahannock, twenty-eight miles in front of the Blue-Ridge, and in a direction parallel to thoſe mountains. This chain, which runs uninterrupted in its ſmall extent, aſſumes ſucceſſively the names of the Weſt, South, and Green Mountains.

It is in the part known by the name of the South-Mountains that Monticello is ſituated. The

The houſe ſtands on the ſummit of the mountain, and the taſte and arts of Europe have been conſulted in the formation of its plan. Mr. Jefferſon had commenced its conſtruction before the American revolution; ſince that epocha his life has been conſtantly engaged in public affairs, and he has not been able to complete the execution to the whole extent of the project which it ſeems he had at firſt conceived. That part of the building which was finiſhed has ſuffered from the ſuſpenſion of the work, and Mr. Jefferſon, who two years ſince reſumed the habits and leiſure of private life, is now employed in repairing the damage occaſioned by this interruption, and ſtill more by his abſence; he continues his original plan, and even improves on it, by giving to his buildings more elevation and extent. He intends that they ſhould conſiſt only of one ſtory, crowned with baluſtrades; and a dome is to be conſtructed in the centre of the ſtructure. The apartments will be large and convenient; the decoration, both outſide and inſide, ſimple, yet regular and elegant. Monticello, according to its firſt plan, was infinitely ſuperior

perior to all other houſes in America, in point of taſte and convenience; but at that time Mr. Jefferſon had ſtudied taſte and the fine arts in books only. His travels in Europe have ſupplied him with models; he has appropriated them to his deſign; and his new plan, the execution of which is already much advanced, will be accompliſhed before the end of next year, and then his houſe will certainly deſerve to be ranked with the moſt pleaſant manſions in France and England.

Mr. Jefferſon's houſe commands one of the moſt extenſive proſpects you can meet with. On the eaſt ſide, the front of the building, the eye is not checked by any object, ſince the mountain on which the houſe is ſeated commands all the neighbouring heights as far as the Cheſapeak. The Atlantic might be ſeen were it not for the greatneſs of the diſtance, which renders that proſpect impoſſible. On the right and left the eye commands the extenſive valley that ſeparates the Green, South and Weſt Mountains from the Blue-Ridge, and has no other bounds but theſe high mountains, of which, on a clear day, you diſcern the chain on the right

right upwards of a hundred miles, far beyond James-River; and on the left as far as Maryland, on the other ſide of the Potowmack. Through ſome intervals, formed by the irregular ſummits of the Blue-Mountains, you diſcover the Peaked-Ridge, a chain of mountains placed between the Blue and North Mountains, another more diſtant ridge. But in the back part the proſpect is ſoon interrupted by a mountain more elevated than that on which the houſe is ſeated. The bounds of the view on this point, at ſo ſmall a diſtance, form a pleaſant reſting-place; as the immenſity of proſpect it enjoys is, perhaps, already too vaſt. A conſiderable number of cultivated fields, houſes, and barns, enliven and variegate the extenſive landſcape, ſtill more embelliſhed by the beautiful and diverſified forms of mountains, in the whole chain of which not one reſembles another. The aid of fancy is, however, required to complete the enjoyment of this magnificent view; and ſhe muſt picture to us thoſe plains and mountains ſuch as population and culture will render them in a greater or ſmaller number of years.

years. The diſproportion exiſting between the cultivated lands and thoſe which are ſtill covered with foreſts as ancient as the globe, is at preſent much too great: and even when that ſhall have been done away, the eye may perhaps further wiſh to diſcover a broad river, a great maſs of water—deſtitute of which, the grandeſt and moſt extenſive proſpect is ever deſtitute of an embelliſhment requiſite to render it completely beautiful.

On this mountain, and in the ſurrounding valleys, on both banks of the Rivanna, are ſituated the five thouſand acres of land which Mr. Jefferſon poſſeſſes in this part of Virginia. Eleven hundred and twenty only are cultivated. The land left to the care of ſtewards has ſuffered as well as the buildings from the long abſence of the maſter; according to the cuſtom of the country it has been exhauſted by ſucceſſive culture. Its ſituation on declivities of hills and mountains renders a careful cultivation more neceſſary than is requiſite in lands ſituated in a flat and even country; the common routine is more pernicious, and more judgement and mature thought are required

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than in a different ſoil. This forms at preſent the chief employment of Mr. Jefferſon. But little accuſtomed to agricultural purſuits, he has drawn the principles of culture either from works which treat on this ſubject, or from converſation. Knowledge thus acquired often miſleads, and is at all times inſufficient in a country where agriculture is well underſtood; yet it is preferable to mere practical knowledge, in a country where a bad practice prevails, and where it is dangerous to follow the routine from which it is ſo difficult to depart. Above all, much good may be expected, if a contemplative mind, like that of Mr. Jefferſon, which takes the theory for its guide, watches its application with diſcernment, and rectifies it according to the peculiar circumſtances and nature of the country, climate and ſoil, and conformably to the experience which he daily acquires.

Purſuant to the ancient rotation, tobacco was cultivated four or five ſucceſſive years; the land was then ſuffered to lie fallow, and then again ſucceeded crops of tobacco. The culture of tobacco being now almoſt entirely relinquiſhed

relinquiſhed in this part of Virginia, the common rotation begins with wheat, followed by Indian corn, and then again wheat, until the exhauſted ſoil loſes every productive power; the field is then abandoned, and the cultivator proceeds to another, which he treats and abandons in the ſame manner, until he returns to the firſt, which has in the mean time recovered ſome of its productive faculties. The diſproportion between the quantity of land which belongs to the planters and the hands they can employ in its culture, diminiſhes the inconveniences of this deteſtable method. The land, which never receives the leaſt manure, ſupports a longer or ſhorter time this alternate cultivation of wheat and Indian corn, according to its nature and ſituation, and regains, according to the ſame circumſtances, more or leſs ſpeedily the power of producing new crops. If in the interval it be covered with heath and weeds, it frequently is again fit for cultivation at the end of eight or ten years; if not, a ſpace of twenty years is not ſufficient to render it capable of production. Planters who are not poſſeſſed of a ſufficient

a ſufficient quantity of land to let ſo much of it remain unproductive for ſuch a length of time, fallow it in a year or two after it has borne wheat and Indian corn, during which time the fields ſerve as paſture, and are hereupon again cultivated in the ſame manner. In either caſe the land produces from five to ſix buſhels of wheat, or from ten to fifteen buſhels of Indian corn, the acre. To the produce of Indian corn muſt alſo be added one hundred pounds of leaves to every five buſhels, or each barrel, of grain. Theſe leaves are given as fodder to the cattle. It was in this manner that Mr. Jefferſon's land had always been cultivated, and it is this ſyſtem which he has very wiſely relinquiſhed. He has divided all his land under culture into four farms, and every farm into ſix fields of forty acres. Each farm conſiſts, therefore, of two hundred and eighty acres. His ſyſtem of rotation embraces ſeven years, and this is the reaſon why each farm has been divided into ſeven fields. In the firſt of theſe ſeven years wheat is cultivated; in the ſecond, Indian corn; in the third, peaſe or potatoes; in the fourth,

fourth, vetches; in the fifth, wheat; and in the ſixth and ſeventh, clover. Thus each of his fields yields ſome produce every year, and his rotation of ſucceſſive culture, while it prepares the ſoil for the following crop, increaſes its produce. The abundance of clover, potatoes, peaſe, &c. will enable him to keep ſufficient cattle for manuring his land, which at preſent receives hardly any dung at all, independently of the great profit which he will in future derive from the ſale of his cattle.

Each farm, under the direction of a particular ſteward or bailiff, is cultivated by four negroes, four negreſſes, four oxen, and four horſes. The bailiffs, who in general manage their farms ſeparately, aſſiſt each other during the harveſt, as well as at any other time, when there is any preſſing labour. The great declivity of the fields, which would render it extremely troubleſome and tedious to carry the produce, even of each farm, to one common central point, has induced Mr. Jefferſon to conſtruct on each field a barn, ſufficiently capacious to hold its produce in grain; the produce in forage

forage is alſo houſed there, but this is generally ſo great, that it becomes neceſſary to make ſtacks near the barns. The latter are conſtructed of trunks of trees, and the floors are boarded. The foreſts and ſlaves reduce the expence of theſe buildings to a mere trifle.

Mr. Jefferſon poſſeſſes one of thoſe excellent threſhing-machines, which a few years ſince were invented in Scotland, and are already very common in England. This machine, the whole of which does not weigh two thouſand pounds, is conveyed from one barn to another in a waggon, and threſhes from one hundred and twenty to one hundred and fifty buſhels a day. A worm, whoſe eggs are almoſt conſtantly depoſited in the ear of the grain, renders it neceſſary to threſh the corn a ſhort time after the harveſt; in this caſe the heat, occaſioned by the mixture of grain with its envelope, from which it is diſengaged, but with which it continues mixed, deſtroys the vital principle of the egg, and protects the corn from the inconveniences of its being hatched. If the grain continued in the ears, without

being ſpeedily beaten, it would be deſtroyed by the worm, which would be excluded from the eggs. This ſcourge, however, ſpreads no farther northwards than the Potowmack, and is bounded to the weſt by the Blue-Mountains. A few weeks after the corn has been beaten, it is free from all danger, winnowed and ſent to market. The Virginia planters have generally their corn trodden out by horſes; but this way is ſlow, and there is no country in the world where this operation requires more diſpatch than in this part of Virginia. Beſides the ſtraw is bruiſed by the treading of horſes. Mr. Jefferſon hopes that his machine, which has already found ſome imitators among his neighbours, will be generally adopted in Virginia. In a country where all the inhabitants poſſeſs plenty of wood, this machine may be made at a very trifling expence.

Mr. Jefferſon rates the average produce of an acre of land, in the preſent ſtate of his farm, at eight buſhels of wheat, eighteen buſhels of Indian corn, and twenty hundred weight of clover. After the land has been

duly

duly manured, he may expect a produce twice, nay three times more conſiderable. But his land will never be dunged as much as in Europe. Black cattle and pigs, which in our country are either conſtantly kept on the farm, or at leaſt return thither every evening, and whoſe dung is carefully gathered and preſerved either ſeparate or mixed, according to circumſtances, are here left grazing in the woods the whole year round. Mr. Jefferſon keeps no more ſheep than are neceſſary for the conſumption of his own table. He cuts his clover but twice each ſeaſon, and does not ſuffer his cattle to graze in his fields. The quantity of his dung is therefore in proportion to the number of cattle which he can keep with his own fodder, and which he intends to buy at the beginning of winter to ſell them again in ſpring; and the cattle kept in the vicinity of the barns where the forage is houſed, will furniſh manure only for the adjacent fields.

From an opinion entertained by Mr. Jefferſon, that the heat of the ſun deſtroys, or at leaſt dries up in a great meaſure, the

nutritious juices of the earth, he judges is neceſſary that it ſhould be always covered. In order therefore to preſerve his fields, as well as to multiply their produce, they never lie fallow. On the ſame principle he cuts his clover but twice a ſeaſon, does not let the cattle feed on the graſs, nor encloſes his fields, which are merely divided by a ſingle row of peach trees.

A long experience would be required to form a correct judgement, whether the loſs of dung which this ſyſtem occaſions in his farms, and the known advantage of fields encloſed with ditches, eſpecially in a declivous ſituation, where the earth from the higher grounds is conſtantly waſhed down by the rain, are fully compenſated by the vegetative powers which he means thus to preſerve in his fields. His ſyſtem is entirely confined to himſelf; it is cenſured by ſome of his neighbours, who are alſo employed in improving their culture with ability and ſkill, but he adheres to it, and thinks it is founded on juſt obſervations.

Wheat, as has already been obſerved, is the chief object of cultivation in this coun-

try.

try. The riſe, which within theſe two years has taken place in the price of this article, has engaged the ſpeculations of the planters, as well as the merchants. The population of Virginia, which is ſo inconſiderable in proportion to its extent, and ſo little collected in towns, would offer but a very precarious market for large numbers of cattle. Every planter has as many of them in the woods, as are required for the conſumption of his family. The negroes, who form a conſiderable part of the population, eat but little meat, and this little is pork. Some farmers cultivate rye and oats, but they are few in number. Corn is ſold here to the merchants of Milford or Charlotte-Ville, who ſhip it for Richmond, where it fetches a ſhilling more per buſhel than in other places. Speculation or a preſſing want of money may at times occaſion variations in this manner of ſale, but it is certainly the moſt common way. Money is very ſcarce in this diſtrict, and, bank-notes being unknown, trade is chiefly carried on by barter; the merchant, who receives the grain, re-

turns its value in ſuch commodities as the vende ſtands in need of.

Mr. Jefferſon ſold his wheat laſt year for two dollars and a half per buſhel. He contends, that it is in this diſtrict whiter than in the environs of Richmond, and all other low countries, and that the buſhel, which weighs there only from fifty-five to fifty-eight pounds, weighs on his farm from ſixty to ſixty-five.

In addition to the eleven hundred and twenty acres of land, divided into four farms, Mr. Jefferſon ſows a few acres with turnips, ſuccory, and other ſeeds.

Before I leave his farm, I ſhall not forget to mention, that I have ſeen here a *drilling-machine*, the name of which cannot be tranſlated into French but by "*machine à ſemer en paquets.*" By Mr. Jefferſon's account, it has been invented in his neighbourhood. If this machine fully anſwers the good opinion which he entertains of it, the invention is the more fortunate, as by Arthur Young's aſſertion not one good drilling-machine is to be found in England. This machine, placed

placed on a ſort of plough-carriage, carries an iron, which gently opens the furrow as deeply as is required. Behind this iron and, in the upper part of the machine, is a ſmall trough, containing the grain which is intended to be ſown. This grain is taken out of the trough by a row of ſmall receivers, ſewed on a leather band, or ribbon, and turning round two pivots placed above each other at the diſtance of from ſeven to eight inches. The ſmall receivers take the grain from the trough, and turn it over into a ſmall conduit, which conveys it into the furrow made by the iron. The diſtance of one of thoſe receivers from another determines that of the places in which the grain is depoſited in the ground; and a harrow, fixed on the machine behind the conduits through which the ſeed falls into the furrow, covers it again. The *endleſs* chain of the receivers, which forms the merit of the machine, may be compared with that which is uſed for drawing water from a great depth, or ſtill more properly with a heaver of flour in Evans's mills. It is put in motion by a light wheel, which moves

along the ground as the machine advances, and is fixed in ſuch a manner that it is not obſtructed in its movements by the inequalities of the ground, nor even by the ſtones which it may find in its way. If this machine really anſwers the intended purpoſe, it is difficult to conceive why it ſhould not have been invented before, as it is extremely ſimple, compoſed of movements well known, and of powers frequently employed. In my opinion it admits, however, of great improvements.

My readers will undoubtedly find that beſtow peculiar attention on agriculture, by ſpeaking of Mr. Jefferſon as a farmer, before I mention him in any other point of view.

They muſt be very ignorant of the hiſtory of America, who know not that Mr. Jefferſon ſhared with George Waſhington, Franklin, John Adams, Mr. Jay, and a few others, the toils and dangers of the revolution, in all its different ſtages; that in the famous congreſs which guided and conſolidated it, he diſplayed a boldneſs and firmneſs of character, a fund of talents and knowledge, and a ſteadineſs of principles, which

which will hand down his name to poſterity with glory, and enſure to him for ever the reſpect and gratitude of all friends of liberty. It was he, who in that famous congreſs, ſo reſpectable, and ſo much reſpected —in that congreſs, ever inacceſſible to the ſeduction, fear, and apparent weakneſs of the people—who jointly with Mr. Lee, another deputy of Virginia, propoſed the declaration of independence. It was he, who, ſupported principally by John Adams, preſſed the deliberation on the ſubject, and carried it, bearing down the wary prudence of ſome of his colleagues, poſſeſſed of an equal ſhare of patriotiſm, but leſs courage. It was he, who was charged with drawing up this maſter-piece of dignified wiſdom, and patriotic pride. It was he, who being afterwards appointed governor of Virginia at the period of the invaſion of Arnold and Cornwallis, acquired a peculiar claim on the gratitude of his fellow-citizens. It was he, who, as the firſt ambaſſador of the United States in France, filled at that momentous epocha that diſtinguiſhed poſt to the ſatisfaction of both nations. In fine, it was he, who

who as Secretary of State in 1792, when the ridiculous and diſorganizing pretenſions of Mr. Genêt, and the lofty arrogance of the * * * miniſter, endeavoured alternately to abuſe the political weakneſs of the United States, induced his government to ſpeak a noble and independent language, which would have done credit to the moſt formidable power. The long correſpondence carried on with theſe two deſigning agents would, from its juſt, profound, and able reaſoning, be alone ſufficient to confer on its author the reputation of an accompliſhed ſtateſman.

Since the beginning of 1794, Mr. Jefferſon has withdrawn from public affairs. This was the time when the malevolent ſentiments of * * * * * * were diſplayed againſt the United States in the ſtrongeſt manner, and when her unjuſt proceedings were reſented with the utmoſt indignation from one end of America to the other. This was the moſt important epocha of the policy of the United Sates, becauſe they propoſed to act with energy and vigour. The preference which under thoſe circumſtances the

Preſident

Preſident was accuſtomed to give to the advice of Mr. Hamilton, which continually carried along with it the opinion not only of General Knox, but alſo of Mr. Randolph, then attorney-general of the Union, over that of Mr. Jefferſon, cauſed him to embrace this reſolution. Immediately after this ſtep, Mr. Jefferſon was conſidered by the ruling party as the leader of Oppoſition; he was ſuſpected of revolutionary views; he was accuſed of an intention to overturn the conſtitution of the United States, of being the enemy of his country, and of a wiſh to become a tribune of the people. It is ſufficient to know that Mr. Jefferſon is a man of ſenſe, to feel the abſurdity of theſe ſcandalous imputations; and whoever is acquainted with his virtue, muſt be aſtoniſhed at their having ever been preferred againſt him. His ſpeeches are thoſe of a man firmly attached to the maintenance of the Union, of the preſent conſtitution, and of the independence of the United States. He is the declared enemy of every new ſyſtem the introduction of which might be attempted, but he is a greater enemy of a kingly form of government than

of

of any other. He is clearly of opinion, that the preſent conſtitution ſhould be carefully preſerved, and defended againſt all infringements ariſing from an extenſion of the prerogatives of the executive power. It was framed and accepted on republican principles, and it is his wiſh that it ſhould remain a republican conſtitution. On ſeveral occaſions I have heard him ſpeak with great reſpect of the virtues of the Preſident, and in terms of eſteem of his ſound and unerring judgement.

But the ſpirit of party is carried to exceſs in America; men who embrace the opinion of Mr. Jefferſon, attack their opponents with imputations, no doubt, equally unfounded. In all party-proceedings neither reaſon nor juſtice can be expected from either ſide, and very ſeldom ſtrict morality with reſpect to the means employed to ſerve the favourite cauſe; one cauſe alone appears good; every thing beſides is deemed bad, nay criminal, and probity itſelf ſerves to miſlead probity. Perſonal reſentments aſſume the colour of public ſpirit, and frequently, when the moſt odious acts of injuſtice have been

been committed, and the moſt atrocious calumnies ſpread, but few members of the party are in the ſecret, and know that they are the effuſions of injuſtice and falſe repreſentation. The truth of theſe obſervations being evident to all men who have lived amidſt parties, ſhould lead to mutual toleration and forbearance.

In private life Mr. Jefferſon diſplays a mild, eaſy and obliging temper, though he is ſomewhat cold and reſerved. His converſation is of the moſt agreeable kind, and he poſſeſſes a ſtock of information not inferior to that of any other man. In Europe he would hold a diſtinguiſhed rank among men of letters, and as ſuch he has already appeared there; at preſent he is employed with activity and perſeverance in the management of his farms and buildings; and he orders, directs, and purſues in the minuteſt detail every branch of buſineſs relative to them. I found him in the midſt of the harveſt, from which the ſcorching heat of the ſun does not prevent his attendance. His negroes are nouriſhed, clothed, and treated as well as white ſervants could be.

As

As he cannot expect any assistance from the two small neighbouring towns, every article is made on his farm; his negroes are cabinet-makers, carpenters, masons, bricklayers, smiths, &c. The children he employs in a nail-manufactory, which yields already a considerable profit. The young and old negresses spin for the clothing of the rest. He animates them by rewards and distinctions; in fine, his superior mind directs the management of his domestic concerns with the same abilities, activity, and regularity, which he evinced in the conduct of public affairs, and which he is calculated to display in every situation of life. In the superintendence of his household he is assisted by his two daughters, Mrs. *Randolph* and Miss *Mary*, who are handsome, modest, and amiable women. They have been educated in France. Their father went often with them to the house of Madame *d'Enville*, my dear and respectable aunt, where they became acquainted with my family, and as the names of many of my friends are not unknown to them, we were able to converse of them together. It will be easily conceived, that this could not

but

but excite in my mind ſtrong ſenſations, and recollections, ſometimes painful, yet generally ſweet. Fifteen hundred leagues from our native country, in another world, and frequently given up to melancholy, we fancy ourſelves reſtored to exiſtence, and not utter ſtrangers to happineſs, when we hear our family and our friends mentioned by perſons who have known them, who repeat their names, deſcribe their perſons, and expreſs themſelves on ſo intereſting a ſubject in terms of kindneſs and benevolence.

Mr. Randolph is proprietor of a conſiderable plantation, contiguous to that of Mr. Jefferſon's; he conſtantly ſpends the ſummer with him, and, from the affection he bears him, he ſeems to be his ſon rather than his ſon-in-law. Miſs Maria conſtantly reſides with her father; but as ſhe is ſeventeen years old, and is remarkably handſome, ſhe will, doubtleſs, ſoon find, that there are duties which it is ſtill ſweeter to perform than thoſe of a daughter. Mr. Jefferſon's philoſophic turn of mind, his love of ſtudy, his excellent library, which ſupplies him with the means of ſatisfying it, and his friends,

friends, will undoubtedly help him to endure this loſs, which moreover is not likely to become an abſolute privation, as the ſecond ſon-in-law of Mr. Jefferſon may, like Mr. Randolph, reſide in the vicinity of Monticello, and, if he be worthy of Miſs Maria, will not be able to find any company more deſirable than that of Mr. Jefferſon.

The ſituation of Monticello exempts this place from the peſtilential effluvia which produce ſo many diſeaſes in the lower countries. From its great elevation it enjoys the pureſt air; and the ſea-breeze, which is felt on ſhore about eight or nine o'clock in the morning, reaches Monticello at one or two in the afternoon, and ſomewhat refreſhes the atmoſphere, but the ſun is intolerable from its ſcorching heat; as indeed it is in all the ſouthern States. The places that enjoy ſome advantage over others are thoſe which, like Monticello, are expoſed to its direct rays, without experiencing their reflection from more elevated mountains, or neighbouring buildings.

Mr. Jefferſon, in common with all landholders in America, imagines that his habitation

tation is more healthy than any other; that it is as healthful as any in the fineſt parts of France; and that neither the ague, nor any other bilious diſtempers are ever obſerved at Monticello. This is undoubtedly true, becauſe he aſſerts it, in regard to himſelf, to his family, and his negroes, none of whom is attacked by theſe maladies; but I am, nevertheleſs, of opinion, that an European, who during this ſeaſon ſhould expoſe himſelf too much to the air from nine in the morning until ſix at night, would not long enjoy a good ſtate of health. During the ſeven days I continued there, not one paſſed without ſome moments of rain, and yet the intenſity of the heat was not in the leaſt abated by it.

In Virginia mongrel negroes are found in greater number than in Carolina and Georgia; and I have even ſeen, eſpecially at Mr. Jefferſon's, ſlaves, who, neither in point of colour nor features, ſhewed the leaſt trace of their original deſcent; but their mothers being ſlaves, they retain, of conſequence, the ſame condition. This ſuperior number of people of colour is owing

to the ſuperior antiquity of the ſettlement of Virginia, and to the claſs of ſtewards or bailiffs, who are accuſed of producing this mongrel breed. They are liable to temptation, becauſe they are young, and conſtantly amidſt their ſlaves; and they enjoy the power of gratifying their paſſions, becauſe they are deſpots. But the public opinion is ſo much againſt this intercourſe between the white people and the black, that it is always by ſtealth, and tranſiently, the former ſatisfy their deſires, as no white man is known to live regularly with a black woman.

Before I cloſe this article I muſt ſay, that during my reſidence at Monticello I witneſſed the indignation excited in all the planters of the neighbourhood by the cruel conduct of a maſter to his ſlave, whom he had flogged to ſuch a degree as to leave him almoſt dead on the ſpot. Juſtice purſues this barbarous maſter, and all the other planters declared loudly their wiſh, that he may be ſeverely puniſhed, which ſeems not to admit of any doubt.

But it is time to take leave of Mr. Jefferſon,

ſon, whoſe kind reception has perfectly anſwered what I had a right to expect from his civility, from our former acquaintance in France, and from his particular connection with my relations and friends. Mr. Jefferſon is invited by the republican party, named anti-federaliſts, to ſucceed George Waſhington in the Preſident's chair of the United States, the latter having publicly declared, that he will not continue in this place, although he ſhould be re-elected by the majority of the people of the United States. The other party is deſirous of raiſing John Adams to that ſtation, whoſe paſt ſervices, and diſtinguiſhed conduct in the cauſe of liberty, together with his place of Vice-Preſident, give him alſo, no doubt, very powerful claims. In the preſent ſituation of the United States, divided as they are between two parties, which mutually accuſe each other of perfidy and treaſon, and involved in political meaſures which it is equally difficult to retract and to purſue, this exalted ſtation is ſurrounded with dangerous rocks ; probity, a zealous attachment to the public cauſe, and the moſt eminent abilities,

will not be ſufficient to ſteer clear of them all. There exiſts no more in the United States a man in a ſituation ſimilar to that of George Waſhington. On his firſt election, the confidence and gratitude of all America were concentrated in him. Such a man cannot exiſt in the preſent conjuncture of circumſtances, and the next preſident of the United States will be only the preſident of a party. Without being the enemy of one of the pretenders, one cannot, therefore, concur in the wiſh which he may entertain of being elevated to that eminent poſt. The fleeting enjoyment of the vanity of him, who ſhall be elected preſident, may, perhaps, be followed by the keeneſt pangs of grief in his remaining days. The two ſmall towns of Charlotte-Ville and Milford trade in the produce of the country ſituated between them and the mountains. They alſo form a ſort of depôt for the commodities of more diſtant parts of the country; eſpecially Milford, where the navigation begins, and does not experience any farther interruption from this point to Richmond. The water-carriage of merchandize and

commodities

commodities coſts one third of a dollar per hundred weight. The trade, which in a ſmall degree is alſo carried on with money, is chiefly managed by barter, becauſe money is ſcarce, and notes are not readily received. The price of land is from four to five dollars per acre, and the quantity of land to be ſold is very conſiderable. Meat, that is, mutton, veal and lamb, fetches four pence a pound; beef cannot be had but in winter. The wages of white workmen, ſuch as maſons, carpenters, cabinet-makers, and ſmiths, amount to from one and a half dollar to two dollars a day, according as they are ſcarce in the country. During the preſent ſeaſon maſons obtain the higheſt pay; there are not four ſtone-maſons in the whole county of Albemarle, where Monticello is ſituated, which I left on the 29th of June.

WOODS-TAVERN. CULTURE OF TOBACCO.

The road to *Woods-tavern*, which runs along Jekney-creek, and through woods, is tolerably good and even. The plantations

continue to be thinly ſcattered, and the proprietors cultivate as much tobacco as they can employ negroes. But here, as on James-River, and in fact throughout Virginia, tobacco is yearly replaced by wheat, which becomes gradually almoſt the general object of culture; and the preſent fall in the price of wheat does not ſeem to render the planters leſs attached to this change in their ſyſtem of cultivation.

The culture of tobacco is difficult, troubleſome, and uncertain. It is ſown in the month of March, in a fat and rather moiſt ground.

Before the ſowing time the land is covered with ſmall branches of trees, which are burnt for the purpoſe of deſtroying the herbs and roots, that might injure the growth of the plant, and alſo in order to increaſe the fertility of the ſoil by their aſhes. The tobacco is thickly ſown on a bed in the moſt ſheltered corner of the field. This bed is covered with branches, leſt the froſt ſhould hinder the unfolding of the ſeed, and prevent the ſprouting of the plants. When they are three or four inches high, they are

tranſplanted

tranſplanted into a field, which has been well manured and prepared for their reception. A negro heaps earth around the plants, which are ſet four feet diſtant from each other on all ſides. The ground is conſtantly kept clean of weeds, and all the leaves are taken from the plant, which it is thought might injure its perfect growth, beginning always with thoſe that are next the ground, and which might be affected by the wet. More earth is heaped around the ſtalk; and its head bruiſed with the nail, to prevent its running up too high; all the ſprouts which ſhoot forth below the leaves are cut away, and all the leaves ſucceſſively torn off, except eight or nine, which alone are left on the ſtalk. At laſt when the plant is ſuppoſed to be ripe, which happens in the month of Auguſt, it is cut, left ſeveral days in the field to dry in the ſun, and then carried into the barns, where every plant is ſeparately ſuſpended by its undermoſt part. In this poſition the leaves attain by deſiccation the laſt degree of maturity, but not all of them at the ſame time; for this deſiccation, which in regard to ſome is completed

within two days, takes with reſpect to others ſeveral weeks. When the leaves are perfectly dry, they are taken from the ſtalk, and laid one upon another in ſmall parcels. The moſt perfect leaves muſt be put together, and thoſe of an inferior quality ſeparated into different claſſes; this is, at leaſt, the method followed by ſuch planters as pay moſt attention to the fabrication of their tobacco. Theſe ſmall parcels of leaves, tied together by their tails, are then brought under the preſs, and afterwards preſſed down into hogſheads. This proceſs varies more or leſs in the different plantations, but the variations are not by any means conſiderable.

The ſorts of tobacco, cultivated in Virginia, are the *ſweet-ſcented*, the moſt eſteemed of all; the *big* and *little*, which follow next; then the *Frederick*; and, laſtly, the *one-and-all*, the largeſt of all, and which yields moſt in point of quantity. The tobacco produced in theſe parts is ſold either at Milford or Richmond. The price is the ſame, and ſo is the freight, which amounts to one third of a dollar per hundred weight; this is alſo the caſe in regard to other articles of merchandize.

merchandize. This year it has been ſold for ſix dollars and two thirds per hundred weight. Three years ago it brought no more than from three to four dollars. A negro can cultivate two acres and a half, and as each acre yields, upon an average, one thouſand pounds of tobacco, each negro can, conſequently, produce two thouſand five hundred pounds. But the culture of this plant is, as has already been ſtated, extremely troubleſome; it is expoſed to a great variety of accidents, which cannot always be avoided, and which deſtroy many ſtalks, or ſpoil at leaſt many leaves: 1ſt. After the plant has been tranſplanted, the root is frequently attacked by a ſmall worm, which cauſes the leaf to turn yellow, and which muſt be taken out of the ground with the fingers, to ſave the plant; 2d. humidity communicates *the rot* to the plant, that is, covers it with red ſpots, which cauſe it to moulder away, and the ſtalk is loſt; 3d. violent winds break the ſtalk; 4th. when the leaves are at the point of attaining their maturity, horn-worms neſtle in them, attack them, and completely deſtroy the plant, unleſs

unleſs they can be torn off; 5th. when the tobacco is cut and ſpread on the ground to dry, the wet impairs its quality. The ſeed for the next year is obtained from forty to fifty ſtalks per acre, which the cultivator lets run up as high as they will grow, without bruiſing their heads.

Mr. Wood cultivates no tobacco on the farm where he keeps his inn, but on another, ſeven miles farther diſtant, and the only ſort he attends to is *one-and-all.* Near his inn he cultivates wheat and Indian corn, like all the other farmers of the diſtrict; but he dungs his fields now and then, and thus prolongs the term of their fertility. He frequently obtains thirty buſhels of wheat per acre, and all his produce in wheat as well as tobacco is ſold at Milford.

The price of land is in this diſtrict the ſame as in the vicinity of Mr. Jefferſon.

Mr. Wood's inn is ſo good and cleanly —he, his wife, and whole family, are ſo kindly officious and obliging, that I cannot forbear mentioning thoſe circumſtances with pleaſure. Mr. Wood is a lively, agreeable, old man; thirty-five years ago he ſettled in this

this part of Virginia, where he arrived from Ireland, and has amaſſed a conſiderable fortune.

NORTH-GARDEN-MOUNTAINS.

A few miles beyond Mr. Wood's inn, you paſs by the North-garden-Mountains. This is a ſmall circle of mountains, almoſt entirely cloſed, which contains about ten thouſand acres of the very beſt land. The richneſs of the ſoil, and the variety of ſituations, which fits it for all ſpecies of culture, have obtained for this diſtrict the name it bears. A planter has made there within theſe few years a ſucceſsful trial with the vine; he puts into his wine brandy and ſugar, and imagines that the wine is made in the ſame manner in all countries whence it is exported in large quantities. He does not as yet produce wine enough for ſale, but the Virginians who have taſted it allow it to be excellent, and he will, of courſe, find a ready market when he ſhall be able to make a ſufficient quantity.

ROCKFISH.

ROCKFISH.

During the whole journey, until you reach the foot of the *Rockfish*, you continually aſcend and deſcend, but the ground riſes all along by ſenſible degrees; the plantations are more numerous, but the buildings conſiſt of ſmall miſerable log-houſes, although the cultivated fields which ſurround them are tolerably extenſive. The nearer you approach the mountains the more the tobacco-fields grow ſcarce, and you at laſt ſee nothing but wheat and Indian corn. Among all the farmers I have met with, I found but one who was not diſſatisfied with the fall in the price of wheat, and who expreſſed himſelf on this ſubject with moderation and judgement; all the reſt perceive in the decreaſe of the value of their commodities their approaching ruin, and lament it with the utmoſt grief. At length you reach the foot of the Blue-Mountains, which you aſcend by a road two miles in length, that has a gentle riſe, and is well cut. A ſmall additional expence would have rendered it completely

completely good by turning off ſeveral ſprings, which ſpoil it in different places. From this mountain you enjoy an extenſive proſpect over all the heights you have juſt traverſed; but the country is covered with wood to ſuch a degree, that their tops only can be diſcerned. On the ſummit of Rock-fiſh-Mountain you find a few miſerable houſes, the moſt conſiderable of which is an abominable inn, full of bugs, fleas, and all kinds of ordure. I ſtopped there, for I had no choice. All the inhabitants of the place meet here, as they generally do in the ſmall inns in America, to ſmoke their pipes, to drink whiſky, and relate the toils of the day: politics take up but little of their converſation. Newſpapers do not reach Rock-fiſh, and the number of families is too ſmall to ſupply matter for the "*chronique ſcandaleuſe*;" but ſegars and whiſky ſatisfy theſe good people, who thus ſpend in a quarter of an hour in the evening the earnings of the whole day. The landlord of the inn has alſo a diſtillery of whiſky, which he diſtills from Indian corn and wheat, mixed in equal proportion, and thus increaſes its

ſtrength.

ſtrength. This whiſky fetches eight ſhillings per gallon. The addition of Indian corn augments, in my opinion, the unwholeſomeneſs of this liquor; but this is immaterial for the inn-keeper, whoſe only care is to diſpoſe of it at a profitable rate. A ſtore, eſtabliſhed on the top of the mountain, buys the produce of the adjoining country, which is offered there for ſale, and retails the merchandize drawn from Richmond by the way of Milford. The ſtore-keeper tranſmits alſo to Milford the commodities of the country, if they are not ſent by direct conveyance to Richmond. The carriage to Milford coſts two thirds of a dollar per hundred weight. All the goods ſold at this ſtore are ſeventy-five per cent dearer than in Philadelphia.

The land, even on the ſummit of the mountain, is tolerably good; it is ſown with wheat, and produces from eight to twelve buſhels per acre. The culture of tobacco terminates at the foot of this chain of mountains; on the other ſide not a leaf is produced, neither the ſoil nor climate being fit for it. It is alſo here that ſtill more for-

tunately

tunately the ſcourge entirely ſtops, known under the name of *widles*, and that the grain can be preſerved as long as it ſuits the convenience of the owner, without being threſhed. The laſt farmer I converſed with, before I reached the foot of the mountain, told me, that his grain was infected with that inſect.

JOURNEY FROM ROCKFISH TO STAUNTON.

The mountain, whoſe ſummit cannot be reached from the other ſide till after aſcending two miles, is deſcended by a road which, at moſt, is only three quarters of a mile in length, though it ſlopes as gently as the former, a circumſtance which proves how much the ground riſes from one ridge to another in this ſeries of mountains, which contains four ſuch ſtages. The country, as far as Staunton, is thus conſtantly riſing. The habitations are in this diſtrict more numerous than on the other ſide of the Blue-Mountains, but the houſes are miſerable; mean ſmall log-houſes, inhabited by families which

which ſwarm with children. There exiſts here the ſame appearance of miſery as in the back parts of Pennſylvania. The inhabitants are moſt of them emigrants from the county of Lancaſter, from Maryland, and the environs of Reading and Carliſle. They purchaſe land in theſe back parts of Virginia at a cheaper rate than they ſold that which they quitted. They clear an additional portion of land, and ſell it again on the firſt opportunity, in order to remove into Kentucky, or Teneſſee. Theſe are the main points of direction for the emigration from Virginia, where moſt of the families from Pennſylvania and Maryland ſettle only for a certain time. Some of the ancient inhabitants of Virginia emigrate alſo to the weſtern parts, and it is a certain fact, that the ſtate loſes yearly more than it gains by emigration. In the county of Auguſta, which is entered after paſſing the Blue-Ridge, the price of land is higher than in the county of Albemarle. It is difficult to account for this fact, as the produce of the country is retailed at a rate ſomewhat cheaper, although the increaſed expence for the

carriage

carriage to market ſhould, it ſeems, raiſe its price. Land coſts from ten to twelve dollars the acre. All ſpecies of grain, hemp, and flax, are cultivated here, but with as little ſkill as in the preceding counties. As there are no rich planters in this diſtrict, the number of negroes is inconſiderable; yet all theſe petty planters, however poor and wretched they apparently are, have one ſlave who ſhares in their toils and diſtreſs.

STAUNTON, AND THE PRINCIPAL MINERAL SPRINGS IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD.

On deſcending the Blue-Mountains, the South-River, or ſouthern branch of the Shenandoah, is croſſed; and, before Staunton is reached, the creeks Chriſtian and Lewis are paſſed, which, at a few miles diſtance from that ſpot, empty themſelves into the Shenandoah.

Staunton is the capital of the county of Auguſta. From its being in the centre of a group of hills, it is one of the places in Virginia where the heat is moſt intenſe,

above all, moſt oppreſſive and intolerable. Some houſes conſtructed on the heights enjoy a little more air, but they are commanded by other neighbouring mountains, which frequently prevent the air from reaching them, and very ſeldom ſuffer it to circulate. The land in the neighbourhood is not remarkably fruitful. It would be difficult to account for this ſpot having been choſen for the ſite of a town in preference to others, but for the numerous ſprings of excellent water, and a rivulet, which burſting from a hill near the town, turns two mills, and might turn many more if there were money enough to eſtabliſh them, and a ſufficient quantity of corn to be ground. The ſmall rivulet forms the *Middle-River*, which empties itſelf into the Shenandoah.

The moſt frequented road to the *ſweet, warm*, and *hot ſprings* at *Greenbriar*, and from thence to Kentucky, paſſes through Staunton, and makes it a conſiderable thoroughfare. Eight inns are eſtabliſhed there, three of which are large, and frequently full. The *warm* and *hot ſprings* are in the county of Auguſta, towards the ſource of

James-

James-River. They are eight miles distant from each other, and strongly impregnated with sulphur. The temperature of the *warm spring* is ninety-two degrees of Fahrenheit, which are equal to twenty-six degrees and two thirds of Reaumur; that of the *hot springs* one hundred and twelve degrees of Fahrenheit, equal to thirty-six degrees and five ninths of Reaumur. These two springs are considered to be very efficacious in rheumatic complaints, and in all cases where it is necessary to purify the blood. The *sweet springs* are in the county of *Botetourt*, forty miles from the others, and near another source of James-River. They are quite cold. The accommodations are not remarkably good in any of these three places, although they are much frequented.

Staunton contains about eight hundred inhabitants, a fourth of whom are negroes. The houses are tolerably well built. From fifteen to eighteen stores receive the produce of the back country, which chiefly consists in wheat, Indian corn, rye, hemp, linseed, wax, and honey. Pretty large quantities of bear-skins and beaver-skins are also

carried thither, as well as ox-hides, for the ſupply of a tan-yard, which has been eſtabliſhed in the place. The goods ſold by the ſtore-keepers are brought directly from Baltimore, yet more frequently from Philadelphia, as the ſmall capitals of the merchants of Richmond do not allow them to give as long credit as the Staunton traders can obtain in thoſe two large cities, where they alſo find a cheaper market. The trade of Staunton has decreaſed of late years on account of the eſtabliſhment of ſeveral ſmall towns in the county of Greenbriar, as the ſtore-keepers in thoſe places buy up ſome of the commodities which were formerly brought to Staunton, and ſupply the ſame parts of the country with articles of merchandize which were originally ſupplied by Staunton.

Two market-days are weekly kept in the town, but the market is badly furniſhed with proviſions. Meat ſells at ſix pence a pound. Flour fetches about eleven dollars the barrel; it is fine and white, and of a taſte infinitely ſuperior to that on the other ſide of the Blue-Mountains. The price of

a town-

a town-lot of one acre varies according to its poſition, from ſixty to a hundred dollars. This country is not free from bilious fevers in autumn, yet they are leſs frequent than in the low countries. Four phyſicians are eſtabliſhed in this ſmall town, whoſe practice is very extenſive.

A newſpaper is publiſhed at Staunton twice a-week, and another is received there every week from Wincheſter. Theſe papers, it is true, are rather warm in defence of the French cauſe, yet they are written with moderation, and never attack directly or indirectly the government of the United States. As far as I am able to judge, they are but little read.

I had a conſiderable inflammation in my eyes, which increaſed to ſuch a degree, that on my arrival at Staunton I was abſolutely blind. In order to get rid of it, I was obliged to have recourſe to bleeding, phyſic, and bliſters, and to remain four days in that ſmall town. This diſtemper, which I caught at Monticello, is very common throughout this country in the hotteſt part of the ſeaſon,

eſpecially with thoſe who expoſe themſelves to the ſun.

During my ſtay at the inn where I lodged, I ſaw great numbers of travellers paſs by, who were either merchants or ſellers of land, going to Greenbriar and Carolina, or perſons on their way to the medicinal ſprings for relief from rheumatic pains, or other maladies, which they had contracted in the low countries. The political opinions they delivered in the courſe of converſation were remarkably good. The declaration made by the Preſident, that he will not be a candidate at the next election, was the common topic; and while they unanimouſly declared that Mr. Jefferſon ſhould be his ſucceſſor, they were at the ſame time clearly of opinion that nothing could repair his loſs.

A preſbyterian church has been built at Staunton; it is well frequented every Sunday by the followers of that ſect, as well as by perſons of different religious perſuaſions. A Baptiſt preacher delivers now and then a ſermon in this church, which does not, however, make the leaſt alteration in the compoſition of the audience.

The

The inhabitants of Staunton, like the generality of Virginians, are fond of gambling and betting. I witneſſed there two miſerable horſe-races. The beſt horſe was not worth ſixty dollars, and the bets amounted to three or four hundred. But as money is by no means plentiful, they lay knives, watches, &c. &c. I have ſeen twelve watches depoſited in the hands of the ſame umpire. With reſpect to the manners of the people here, they are in general much like thoſe of Richmond, nor are they actuated by a ſuperior deſire to diſcharge the debts which they contract.

TOUR FROM STAUNTON TO WINCHESTER. KEYSSEL-TOWN.

The road from Staunton to Wincheſter runs into two directions, ten miles from the former place, but the two roads thus formed join again thirty miles farther on. We had been adviſed to ſtrike into the old road, as being the beſt, and we preferred it accordingly; I ſay *we*, for Mr. Guillemard had rejoined me. The road as far as that

fork, and even far beyond it, offers no intereſting objects; it is good, but, to judge from the nature of the ground, it muſt be almoſt impaſſable in winter. Rocks are very numerous; the habitations do not ſtand at a great diſtance from the road, but they have a mean appearance.

Fourteen miles from Staunton, a woman who keeps an inn, or at leaſt who aſſumed the title in an advertiſement over her door, was not able to furniſh us a breakfaſt in her hut, the moſt filthy and naſty I have hitherto met with throughout America.—Three miles farther on, we were at conſiderable pains to obtain one, which fell much ſhort of ſatisfying the calls of hunger. As we could not entertain the leaſt hopes of getting a dinner at Snap's (this is the name of the maſter of this ſecond inn), we were compelled to brave the intolerable heat of the noon-tide ſun, and to proceed four miles farther on, to Keyſſel-Town, a town which, though only twenty years old, is already falling into decay. It is an aſſemblage of about twenty miſerable houſes, four of which are whiſky-houſes. The land is generally

generally good, and fetches upon an average from fifteen to ſeventeen dollars the acre; but uplands ſell only for four or five. Keyſſel-Town ſtands cloſe to the Peaked-Mountains, a ridge which ſtretches, without the leaſt interruption, from the northern branch of the Shenandoah to Newton, that is, about ſixty miles in a direction parallel to the Blue-Mountains, which are fifteen miles diſtant. This chain is, in fact, only a continuation of the ſame mountain; for the ſummit forms throughout its whole extent a ſtraight line, uninterrupted by ſlight differences in point of form. The ſtate of culture is here much the ſame as in all the preceding diſtricts; large quantities of land in poſſeſſion of the ſame owner, and put into cultivation until they are completely exhauſted. Hemp, which grows very fine, is cultivated throughout the whole of this country, but flax is merely attended to on account of the ſeed. The number of cattle is very conſiderable, but they are conſtantly kept in the woods. There are but very few farmers who ſtall them, even in winter, although the froſt is for three months very ſevere:

ſevere: they then ſtrew a few handfuls of bad hay before the door, which theſe poor lean animals come to eat; and this muſt laſt until the next day, when they return for the ſame ſcanty ſupply. Dung is conſequently little valued in this country. Although this is the general method, yet there are ſome exceptions for the better.

On the journey from Staunton to Keyſſel-Town we paſs the northern branch of the Shenandoah, and the Middle-Creek. Two phyſicians and four inn-keepers conſtitute the principal population of Keyſſel-Town. One of the phyſicians is alſo maſter of an inn; the other, a German by birth, formerly employed in the Dutch ſervice at Batavia, and the Cape of Good Hope in the hoſpitals, enjoys, it is ſaid, ſome reputation in the country. We were told that people frequently come forty miles to conſult him. His name is Dr. Hall; we ſaw him; he ſeems to poſſeſs more knowledge than phyſicians generally do in this country; but this diſtinction is no peculiar ground of praiſe. This doctor, who arrived in America fourteen years ago, has ſucceſſively reſided in the

ſtate

ſtate of New-York, Jerſey, and different parts of Virginia. In the laſt inſtance he quitted the weſtern mountains, three years ſince, to ſettle in Keyſſel-Town; he ſold for fifteen hundred dollars ninety acres of land, and a houſe, which two years before he had purchaſed for two hundred and forty, and where he had actually made ſome improvements. I mention this fact, becauſe inſtances of a ſimilar kind ſeldom happen in this country. They depend undoubtedly on peculiar circumſtances; for, as has already been obſerved, the increaſe of the price of land in Virginia is far from keeping pace with the rapid progreſſion it experiences in the northern States, and which ſeems to commence in South-Carolina.—Meat is ſold for three pence a pound, and freſh pork for from four to five. Some inhabitants of theſe parts buy up ſalt pork in *Greenbriar-County*, and retail it here. They purchaſe it for five pence, and ſell it for nine. We ſaw at Mr. Snap's a waggon loaded with thirty hundred weight of this article, which was to be ſold in the environs of Frederickſburg. The ſoil conſiſts in general of calcareous

calcareous earth, and the uppermoſt layer is clay, which is frequently ſo red, that you would ſuppoſe it to be of a ferruginous nature. The habitations are pretty numerous, but mean and poor. Some mills on the creek do not look quite ſo wretched; but there is not one good houſe, not one good ſtable, and not one good barn, even on the eſtates of the moſt conſiderable farmers.

FREY.

The houſe of one *Pickering*, twelve miles from Keyſſel-Town, had been pointed out to us as a comfortable manſion. We did not find Pickering there, but *Frey*, a German, to whom the former ſold it laſt year, and who had eſtabliſhed himſelf here ſome weeks before our arrival. The houſe was in ſo wretched a ſtate as to be ſeen through on all ſides; there was nothing to eat either for man or horſe, nor was there any drink to be got but whiſky. We were, however, obliged to content ourſelves with this hut; for it was night, and we ſhould have been obliged to travel four miles more in ſearch of

of another inn, which perhaps might not have been better. We accordingly accommodated ourſelves to circumſtances, and were informed that this Frey, the ſon of a German, came laſt year from Reading, and paid three hundred and twenty dollars for his houſe, two diſtilleries, which belong to it, and ſixty-two acres of good land. This tract of country is peopled by one and the ſame ſort of emigrants, who come from Lancaſter and Reading, good ſubjects, honeſt people, middling cultivators; but awkward, rude, uninformed, and dirty. Theſe qualities and inconveniences characterize all the ſettlers in America who are Germans, or ſons of Germans.

The air here is ſo intenſely hot, and the rays of the ſun beat with ſuch violence, at this ſeaſon of the year, that to render travelling during the day at all tolerable, it is neceſſary to depart even before daybreak; and to reſt from ſeven or eight in the morning till five in the evening; when the traveller muſt ſet forward again, to make a moderate day's journey before the arrival of night. With theſe hours one can ſeldom

proceed

proceed more than five and twenty miles a day; for it is neceſſary, both to the rider and his horſe, to travel at an eaſy pace. The ſun begins to ſcorch as ſoon as it riſes; at five in the morning the heat is already inconvenient; in the evening it is exceſſive till ſun-ſet; and even long after the ſun is down, the ground and all the ſurrounding objects are impregnated with heat, and continue to reflect it upon the traveller. But after all, though the air is ſultry through the whole day, I have always ſuffered leſs from it than from the burning rays of the ſun, which to me were terrible. And very often, in deſpight of the management I have talked of, the traveller loſes the advantage of part of his precautions, from the want of inns at convenient diſtances; being compelled, whatever he may endure, to proceed further into the morning than eight o'clock, and to begin his journey again earlier than five in the evening. This happened to us yeſterday, which was the 5th of July. We could find no place to reſt at, till noon; and were obliged to ſet out again at four, to reach our miſerable inn by the time night

night began to fall. Travelling in this manner defeats the intention of one who travels from curioſity; for, beſide his being in danger of falling ſick, he arrives at the end of his day's journey ſo fatigued as to be incapable of exertion, and unfit for enquiry. He can ſcarcely go twenty paces from his inn, to ſee an object worthy of being viſited; and has barely ſtrength to ſupport a languid exiſtence.

Newmarket was the firſt place where we ſtopped; it is eight miles diſtant from our wretched night-quarters, from which we were not able to ſet out as ſoon as we could have wiſhed. The aſpect of the country does not offer the leaſt variety of views. On ſome farms we now and then ſee barns, better ſtocked then they generally are in this part of the country; but the dwellings are all ſmall log-houſes, and the culture is bad. Between Frey's inn and Newmarket the two branches of the road join again into one. Newmarket is a more conſiderable place than Keyſſel-Town; the buildings are much of the ſame conſtruction, but in a better condition. It is alſo ſituated in a more extenſive plain than we have ſeen

in

in our travels between the mountains. As to the price of commodities, the manners of the inhabitants, and the culture of the ſoil, the difference is ſo very trifling, as not to deſerve any notice.

THE VALLEY AND RIVER SHENANDOAH. PEATON.

After an up and down hill journey of five miles farther on a road filled with looſe ſtones, we entered the valley of Shenandoah, where meadows become more frequent. The heat of the day did not allow us to proceed farther than Peaton's houſe, where, contrary to what we had been led to expect, we found the beſt accommodation we have met with ſince we left Staunton. Peaton kept formerly an inn, but having bought, a twelvemonth ſince, a pretty conſiderable eſtate at the foot of the Blue Mountains, this new acquiſition engroſſes almoſt his whole time and attention. His wife and children continue, however, in his ancient habitation, where he has taken down the ſign, but continues to receive

receive travellers who chooſe to ſtop at his houſe. The difference between theſe houſes, which are pretty numerous in Virginia, and inns, or *ordinaries* as they are called in this State, is, that in the latter all perſons are admitted without diſtinction, but in the former none are received but travellers. They are thus exempted from noiſe, drunken quarrels, bad payment, and the charges for a licence. For ſuch houſes, therefore, if they are well known, it is a clear profit to take down the ſign. But the inn-keepers look upon them with a jealous eye, and do not point them out to travellers; and but for the heat of the ſun, which forced us to ſeek ſhelter wherever we hoped we might be able to obtain it, we ſhould not have ſtopped at Peaton's. We were very well treated there, and if we had not been fortunate enough to have ſtopped, we ſhould have been obliged to go ten miles farther to find even a bad inn. Beſides, it was high time for us to ſtop; for I felt already the ſymptoms of a fever, which prevented me from proceeding any farther in the evening air.

Wheat is cultivated in this part of the

country, as in all the preceding diſtricts. The harveſt has but juſt begun, although the wheat is over-ripe. It is much infected with the rot, and mowed with the ſickle as in Europe. On the other ſide of the Blue Mountains, prejudices, ignorance, and the habits of the negroes, oppoſe the introduction of the ſickle, although ſome farmers, who are aware that the uſual mode of mowing with the ſcythe cauſes a conſiderable loſs of grain, wiſh to introduce it. But moſt of them are incapable of obſervation or reflection. Mowing with the ſcythe being the uſual way, they think, in common with the negroes, that it is the beſt. But here, where the white people work themſelves with the negroes, and where a great number of huſbandmen arrive from countries where the ſickle is made uſe of, they find no difficulty in mowing with the ſickle. The price of land is here much the ſame as in Keyſſel-Town; it is conſequently twice as dear as land of the ſame quality on the other ſide of the Blue Mountains.

We meet frequently in the road heavy waggons, covered with ſtrong linen, and ſometimes

ſometimes alſo with bear-ſkins, drawn by four or ſix horſes. It is in ſuch waggons that the produce of the country of Teneſſee, Kentucky, and the back parts of Virginia, as well as ſkins and hides, are conveyed to the ports of Alexandria, but more frequently to thoſe of Baltimore and Philadelphia, and they bring back in return the productions of Europe and the colonies.

JOURNEY TO STRASBURGH.

A quarter of a mile from Peaton's houſe we croſs the river Shenandoah, which is rather narrow, but very clear there, and flows in a deep bed, often obſtructed by rocks. The banks of it are, in ſome inſtances, covered with fine natural graſs. The country we traverſe, as far as *Woodſtock*, has but few hills, is tolerably inhabited, and is more open than before; but the houſes gain nothing either in point of convenience or outward appearance. Woodſtock is the capital of the county of Shenandoah. This town chiefly conſiſts of log-houſes, and contains from ſeventy to eighty houſes, a court-houſe,

and a bad priſon, like all the towns of the county. It was formerly named *Millers-Town*, after the name of the proprietor of ground on which it was built; but the legiſlature of Virginia, which ſeveral years ago had changed this ſyſtem of nomenclature, has given it the preſent name. Some ſaddlers, carpenters, ſmiths, hatters, and even watch-makers, have eſtabliſhed themſelves in this ſmall town, which is inhabited by Germans, as, in fact, are all the other places in this part of Virginia. Negroes are not numerous, and only to be found in large families; there are no more than five hundred of them in this county, and the whole population amounts nearly to 12,000 inhabitants.

Between Woodſtock and *Straſburgh*, formerly *Stovers-Town*, the ground is extremely ſtony, and the habitations are very few. A mile on this ſide of Straſburgh the ſpecies of wood ſhews that the ſoil is better; the whole ſcene is changed, the country opens, the chain of *Peaked Mountains* terminates, and we deſcend into what may be called the valley of Shenandoah; for it is on this point where

where it really begins, at leaſt for the traveller. Meadows well furniſhed with timothy-graſs and clover are interſperſed with fields of wheat and Indian corn, and with orchards, which abound with apple-trees in this diſtrict. Land coſts here from eighteen to twenty-eight dollars the acre, and there is but little to be ſold in this town, which is entirely inhabited either by Germans, or children of Germans. The fields are manured, and produce from fifteen to twenty-five buſhels of wheat per acre. They plough with horſes, none of which can be bought under one hundred and twenty dollars, although the recent fall in the price of flour has alſo leſſened their value, as well as that of all commodities.

The farmers find no difficulty in procuring white labourers, whom they pay at the rate of ten dollars per month, half a dollar per day, and four ſhillings during the harveſt. The cows are very fine, they are bred in the country, and ſold for twenty dollars. Conſiderable numbers of cattle are reared, and more particularly fattened in the paſtures, and then, as well as the ſheep

and pigs, which are alſo very numerous, ſent to the markets of Baltimore and Philadelphia. The wool, not uſed in families for manufacturing neceſſary clothing, ſerves to ſupport ſome hat-manufactories, which have been eſtabliſhed in the country. Some merchants of the town purchaſe of ſmall farmers the whole produce of their land, but the rich landholders ſend it themſelves to Philadelphia. Flour fetches, at this moment but ſeven dollars per barrel at Straſburgh, and meat three pence a pound. Straſburgh contains two churches; an Anglican, which is called the high church in this country, and a Preſbyterian-meeting.

Before we reached the town, we found in the woods ſeveral ſnakes near the road; among others, a black ſerpent, thin, long, and which glides with great ſwiftneſs, and the ſnake known by the name of the glaſs-ſnake, from its being as tranſparent and brittle as glaſs. They were about two or three feet long, and neither of them venomous.

NEW-TOWN.

The country continues beautiful and open as far as New-Town, but is leſs inhabited than I expected from what I had read and heard. One or two handſome houſes of planters are ſeen from the road; they are more numerous, it is ſaid, on the banks of the river Shenandoah, from which we conſtantly removed to a greater diſtance, after we had paſſed Peaton's houſe, fifteen miles diſtant from New-Town. The land is good, and its culture and produce are much the ſame as in the vicinity of Straſburgh. New-Town, formerly named *Stevenſburg*, is a ſmall town, ſomewhat leſs conſiderable than Straſburgh. It contains five hundred inhabitants, and is peopled, like the whole country, by German families. White labourers are procured there as eaſily as at Straſburgh, and receive nearly the ſame wages; yet during the laſt harveſt they refuſed to work for leſs than a buſhel of wheat per day, which the farmers were obliged to give, leſt they ſhould loſe their harveſt. The market-price

at Alexandria, whither all the flour of the country is carried, fixes that of New-Town, with the difference of two dollars and a half, which are deducted for freight. Laſt year a barrel of flour brought as much as twelve dollars and a half at New-Town; but at this time it coſts no more than ſix dollars. Great planters only have at New-Town, as in every other part of the valley, a conſiderable number of negroes; ſmall farmers keep only one or two, and work along with them.

There is no church at New-Town; we ſeldom meet with any in Virginia where divine ſervice is performed; from time to time we ſee indeed old buildings called meeting-places, but no ſermons are delivered there, no prayers read, and they do not of courſe deſerve the name of church.

At New-Town we took leave of Mr. Dandridge, who ſlept at Peaton's the ſame night we did, and in whoſe company we travelled the laſt two days. Mr. Dandridge was ſecretary to the Preſident, and left him two or three months ago. The circumſtance that the Preſident had appointed another ſecretary in his room was recorded in the

chronique

chronique ſcandaleuſe of Philadelphia, with a variety of comments and ſpeculations on the motives of this ſeparation; in ſhort, this domeſtic tranſaction in the houſe of the Preſident was canvaſſed with all the curioſity, ignorance, and loquacity, of a large ſociety of idlers; and the newſpapers re-echoed this empty noiſe of ſuppoſition and conjecture, which are apparently without any ground. However this may be, Mr. Dandridge was returning from the county of Greenbriar, where he had inſpected ſome eſtates belonging to the Preſident, and was now going to rejoin him at Mont-Vernon. We found in him a very pleaſant companion, and he ſeemed as much concerned at his parting from us as we were to leave him. He is a man of a very reſpectable character.

WINCHESTER.

The plantations increaſe both in number and ſize, as we approach Wincheſter, which lies but eight miles from New-Town. It is the capital of Frederick-County, contains upwards of two thouſand inhabitants, and

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is built tolerably well, in the midſt of rocks, which circumſtance, however, does not prevent many of the inhabitants from building houſes of wood. It is very difficult to conceive the motives that led to the conſtruction of a town on this ſpot, where only as much water is found as is required for the uſe of the houſes, and which is upwards of twenty miles diſtant from all navigation; it would have been far more advantageouſly ſituated on the banks of the Shenandoah. The rivulet which ſupplies the families of Wincheſter with water in abundance, is the ſource of Opeckan-Creek, that empties itſelf in a north-eaſt direction into the Potowmack. Wincheſter carries on a conſiderable trade for its inland poſition, in the midſt of a country which is, as yet, ſo thinly inhabited. It ſends to Alexandria the whole produce of the upper country, and draws from Baltimore, but eſpecially from Philadelphia, all ſorts of dry goods: the traffic, both in buying and ſelling, is carried on with ready money.

The preference which is given here to Philadelphia over Alexandria, in regard to the purchaſe of dry goods, reſts on the ſame grounds

grounds as it does in other places of this upper part of Virginia. From the greater wealth poſſeſſed by the merchants of that city, they are able to give longer credit; they receive the goods from the firſt hands, and conſequently can ſell them cheaper; their warehouſes being plentifully ſtocked with merchandize, the buyers can alſo ſuit themſelves better—circumſtances, none of which take place at Alexandria, and which being leſs combined at Baltimore than at Philadelphia, cauſed the latter to be reſorted to in preference to the former, notwithſtanding its greater diſtance: it is by land that all theſe productions and commodities are conveyed to Alexandria, and arrive from Philadelphia. The carriage from Philadelphia to Wincheſter coſts from four to five dollars per hundred weight; and from Wincheſter to Alexandria, two dollars and a half, as it does from New-Town. Heavy merchandize, ſuch as grocery, is at times ſent by ſea from Philadelphia to Alexandria, whence it is conveyed to Wincheſter in waggons, which, if not obliged to go back empty from want of a load, are paid at the rate of one

dollar

dollar and a half per hundred weight. The produce ſent from Winchester conſiſts chiefly of flour. The environs of this place, as well as the back country, whence it draws the neceſſary ſupplies of proviſions, abound in wheat; mills are very numerous in that diſtrict; hemp, ſome linſeed, hats and hardware, great quanties of which are manufactured in Frederick-County, are alſo productions of this country. Upwards of thirty well-ſtocked ſtores, or ſhops, have been opened at Winchester; the value of European goods which it yearly draws from Philadelphia, or Baltimore, is eſtimated at two hundred thouſand pounds, or ſix hundred ſixty-ſix thouſand ſix hundred and ſixty-ſix dollars; they ſell at Winchester thirty per cent dearer than in the former places.

The profeſſion of a lawyer is as lucrative in Winchester as in all the other parts of Virginia. More than twenty of them find conſtant practice, and are in thriving circumſtances. Mechanics are found in abundance; even a coach-maker, and ſeveral watch-makers, have ſettled there. Five churches have been built at Winchester; a Roman

Roman Catholic, an Anglican, a Preſbyterian, a German Lutheran church, and a Methodiſt meeting-houſe, but without any miniſters being peculiarly attached to them. The Engliſh miniſter reſides on the other ſide of the Blue Ridge, and only comes from time to time. The Roman Catholic curate, who lives in Maryland, viſits this place alſo when he chooſes; and ſo do the reſt. The methodiſt meeting-houſe excepted, divine ſervice is thus performed here by itinerant prieſts, who are not in the habit of travelling much in Virginia for the purpoſe of propagating religious truths. But, on the other hand, it is certain that the number of gaming-tables has of late much increaſed in this town, and they are all of them aſſiduouſly frequented. This is a ſort of worſhip, in the obſervance of which but few Virginians incur the charge of infidelity.

Beſides an indifferent priſon, and a very decent court-houſe, Wincheſter contains a fine building deſtined for the poor. The expence of this houſe, which is kept but very careleſsly, is raiſed by a poll-tax on white people and negroes. The poor, however,

ever, do not derive all the advantage it might afford if the public money were huſbanded with more economy. I have not been able to procure much minute information relative to the management of this houſe, but I have ſeen enough of it, to induce me not to wiſh for further particulars. Beſides my opinion on this ſpecies of eſtabliſhments is fixed. They afford in a bad and imperfect manner the aſſiſtance which the poor have a right to claim from ſociety. The care of old and infirm people, ſupported by the public, would be far more uſefully entruſted to private families for a reaſonable compenſation; and thus public charity would be confined to the ſole claſs of the poor who really deſerve it. Alms-houſes for the indigent are ſources of poverty; for they muſt be inhabited, and even filled. The idler conſiders them as unfailing reſources, and is thus encouraged in his idleneſs; while a wicked ſon ſees in them a certain retreat for his father and mother, which hardens him in his guilty diſpoſition not to aſſiſt them in diſtreſs, &c. &c.

If in old ſtates, which are extremely populous and gangrened with miſery and vice, the

the eſtabliſhment of hoſpitals for the poor ſhould be deemed uſeful, their number ought at leaſt to be confined within the bounds of indiſpenſable neceſſity. Now this neceſſity exiſts not, nor can it exiſt, in an infant country like America, which abounds in the means of ſubſiſtence, placed within the reach of every body; where every family may eaſily ſupport ſuch of its members as are reduced to penury by old age or infirmities; where the number of thoſe who have no relations to retreat to in ſuch a ſituation, if there ſhould exiſt any, is at leaſt very ſmall; and where private charity is excited by the very ſcarcity of thoſe who need alms.

It is a painful duty to acknowledge that poor-houſes are far more frequently the reſults of the vanity of cities, and of the indolence of thoſe who ought to attend to the relief of the poor, than the effects of true humanity. The importance of enacting wiſe laws with reſpect to mendicants is not yet ſufficiently felt: the taſk is, indeed, difficult; but they are intimately connected with the proſperity of a great nation, and with the happineſs of all its members.

Two

Two or three pitiful ſchools form all the reſources of the inhabitants of Wincheſter for the education of their children.

The town contains ten or twelve inns, large and ſmall, which are often full. It lies in the way of all travellers who proceed to the back parts of Virginia, to Teneſſee, or to the mineral ſprings in the counties of Auguſta and Berkley. Many families which are emigrating into the new countries alſo paſs through Wincheſter. In the courſe of laſt year upwards of four thouſand perſons paſſed through the place, who were going to ſettle in Teneſſee or Kentucky.

A well-ſtocked market is held there twice a week. The price of meat is five pence a pound; a pair of fowls coſts from two to three ſhillings, and butter eleven pence a pound. Every inhabitant has a garden, which produces the neceſſary vegetables for his conſumption. Board and lodging coſt five dollars a week. Negroes are very numerous in Wincheſter; but white labourers are not eaſily procured, and receive higher wages than in moſt places of the neighbouring counties.

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The population of the county amounts to above twenty-one thouſand ſouls, four thouſand five hundred of whom are negro ſlaves.

BERKLEY-COUNTY. CHARLESTOWN.

Although dwelling-houſes and plantations are tolerably numerous between Wincheſter and Charleſtown, yet the country is ſtill covered with wood to ſuch a degree, that the eye does not enjoy any of the pleaſant views which this fine tract of land, bounded on the right and left by the beautiful chains of the Blue and North Mountains, would offer, if it were well cleared. A few miles from the town the road takes a north-eaſt direction towards the Potowmack. Along the firſt part of this road only ſmall and wretched habitations are to be ſeen; and it is not until we enter the county of Berkley, eleven miles from Wincheſter, that the plantations become more conſiderable, the fields more extenſive, and better cultivated, and that the whole landſcape aſſumes an appearance of wealth. The dwelling-houſes are, in general, better built, and ſome which belong

to rich planters have a handſome appearance: but woods predominate ſtill too much, and more ground lies uncleared than would ſuffice to ſupport a population thirty times more numerous than it is at preſent.

Charleſtown is a ſmall place, built within theſe ten or twelve years, conſiſting of about forty houſes. The inhabitants of this place and its environs are moſtly emigrants from the lower parts of Virginia. A few of them came from Pennſylvania, and theſe are all Germans. This diſtrict is inhabited by more opulent planters than any other of the valley we have hitherto traverſed. The number of negroes is conſequently conſiderable; and white labourers are ſcarce in proportion: it is with great difficulty that any of the latter can be procured during the harveſt at the rate of two dollars per day. The difficulty of finding labourers at that important period obliges the farmer to have his wheat cut with the ſcythe, although he is fully aware of the inconvenience which attends this operation, and which is more conſiderable here than elſewhere, for the thickneſs of the crops obſtructs the action of the ſcythe, and a greater quantity

quantity of corn is accordingly ſhaken out by the additional force required in mowing it down.

Landed property for ſome miles round Charleſtown is more divided, perhaps, than in any other part of Virginia. Very few of the planters poſſeſs more than two thouſand acres of land, and few even ſo much. The culture is better, the fields are better ploughed, better huſbanded, and are even a little dunged. An acre produces from twenty to twenty-five buſhels of wheat; oats are cultivated in abundance; numbers of cattle are kept in the meadows. The whole produce is diſpoſed of in the ſame manner as that of the environs of Wincheſter, Straſburgh, &c. &c. But it is from Wincheſter that the ſtores or ſhops of Charleſtown receive their ſupplies: none of the ſhop-keepers is ſufficiently rich to draw merchandize directly from the ſea-ports.

Two tolerably good ſchools, one for Engliſh, and another for Latin, are eſtabliſhed at Charleſtown, to which children are frequently ſent from Wincheſter. The price of inſtruction for each pupil at theſe ſchools

amounts to five dollars for Engliſh, and ſeventeen for Latin. The corporation is building a houſe in which theſe two ſchools are to be united, and is deſirous that a native of France would fix himſelf here as teacher of the French language.

A Preſbyterian and a Methodiſt church have alſo been erected in this ſmall town, and the Epiſcopalians have built another two miles farther. Theſe three churches have miniſters, ſupported by voluntary contributions; but their allowance is not ſufficient to relieve them from the neceſſity of being alſo paid by other congregations, ſo that divine ſervice is performed at Charleſtown every fortnight only, and it is ſaid that even on theſe days the churches are but little frequented.

No market having been as yet eſtabliſhed in Charleſtown, every one ſupplies himſelf with proviſions as well as he can. Meat coſts ſix pence a pound, butter nine pence, and fowls two ſhillings a pair.

This town is increaſing every year, and many new houſes are building. The inhabitants aſſured us, as in fact they did everywhere,

where, that the air is extremely ſalubrious; and, to judge from the aſpect of the country, nothing ſeems here to contradict the aſſertion.

The culture of wheat extends five or ſix miles beyond Charleſtown. The fields are all of a vaſt extent, and the crops of Indian corn are remarkably fine. The meadows are alſo very rich, but they are few in number.

PASSAGE OF THE POTOWMACK THROUGH THE BLUE MOUNTAINS. HARPER'S FERRY.

Two or three miles from Potowmack you find a ledge of ſmall heights, which always precede and follow the high chains of mountains; they are ſtony, and but little cleared of wood, and the roads are dreadful.

At laſt we reach the celebrated point, ſo much extolled by travellers, and the celebrity of which has been greatly increaſed by Mr. Jefferſon's *Notes*—the pointwhere the Potowmack, on receiving the Shenandoah, ſeems to have broken through the Blue Ridge, to

open for its waters a paſſage acroſs this grand obſtacle, by which nature intended to obſtruct its courſe. The view is beautiful and majeſtic. The Shenandoah ſweeps in a ſouth-eaſt direction along the Blue Mountains, and ſeems deſtined thus to prolong its rapid courſe all along this ridge, when the Potowmack, which flows ſmooth and ſtill from weſt to eaſt, encounters it at a right angle, and increaſing the impetus and rapidity of the Shenandoah, arreſts the natural direction of the latter, and carries it along acroſs theſe high mountains, which ſeem to open for the ſole purpoſe of letting them paſs. The ſcene is grand; it deſerves to be viewed, and is worthy of the admiration of travellers who delight in the magnificent operations of nature. But, however I was pleaſed with the ſight, it did not excite in me thoſe emotions of enthuſiaſm which I expected, which I have ſeveral times experienced in the courſe of my life, and which laſt year affected me ſo ſtrongly at the view of the falls of Niagara. The ſlight impreſſion made upon my mind by the ſudden encounter of the Potowmack and Shenandoah,

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and by their paſſage through the Blue-Ridges, is it to be aſcribed to the idea I had preconceived, and to the high expectations raiſed in my mind by the accounts I had heard and read on this ſubject? But I arrived laſt year with ſimilar, nay ſtronger, preconceptions at the ſtupendous cataract of Niagara, and my aſtoniſhment and admiration were not diminiſhed; on the contrary, they grew ſtronger and ſtronger every moment, while I was contemplating this wonder of nature, which engaged, as it were, every power of my ſoul; and the emotions it excited are ſtill preſent to my mind. Is the want of enthuſiaſtic feeling, perhaps, owing to my actual diſpoſition, which renders me leſs ſuſceptible of the charms of enchantment? This may be; my ſoul has ſince laſt year undoubtedly ſuſtained ſome loſs in this reſpect; yet I am not become abſolutely cold and inſenſible to the beauties of nature; and I indulge in a belief, that I ſhall not ſtand unſupported in my opinion on this grand and beautiful ſcene, which I have viewed with admiration and delight, but

which appeared to me inferior to the deſcriptions given of it.

I muſt here obſerve, by way of a remark on the climate of America, that a very hot day was ſucceeded, at *Harper's Ferry*, by an evening ſo exceſſively cold, that I was obliged to put on my great coat to be able for ſome time to remain in the open air, and that I was ſoon obliged to ſtep into the houſe and ſhut ſome of the windows. This temperature of the air is not, however, common in this place; and the inhabitants were as ſtrangely and diſagreeably affected by it as myſelf.

The beautiful valley of Shenandoah, which has alſo been more extolled, in my opinion, than it deſerves, terminates at this point. It is a fine country, inhabited by an induſtrious and active people; a country, formed by nature to be rich, and which we do not expect to find between theſe two chains of mountains, at leaſt not in Virginia, after having travelled through other parts of that State, where ſo much activity and induſtry are conſidered as things utterly impoſſible; yet

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it is but thinly inhabited in proportion to its extent, and to the length of time ſince it firſt began to be ſettled. Scarcely any part of it is cultivated with careful attention and ſkill; the price of land is very low, improvements proceed but ſlowly; and if we call to recollection the plains on the Mohawk-River in the north of the State of New-York, we muſt allow, that the valley of Shenandoah deſerves the praiſe of being the fineſt part of Virginia, but not of all America, as is frequently aſſerted in written and verbal accounts of this valley. It is from a ſort of ſpirit of juſtice that I thus expreſs myſelf, on this part of the country, in a manner different from that of many others, whoſe opinion may, undoubtedly, have more weight than mine; but I have, nevertheleſs, paſſed through this valley with ſatisfaction and pleaſure; and I wiſh, for the happineſs of the Virginians, that many other parts of their State reſembles this. The want of population would ſoon be ſupplied, and none of the preſent inhabitants would emigrate into other States.

In the valley of Shenandoah are many home-

home-manufactories, which is rarely the case in any other part of Virginia. The richeſt counties in this plain are thoſe of Shenandoah, Frederick, and Berkley, eſpecially the latter. Pigs are bred here in great numbers; they run now and then into the woods, as they do in other parts of Virginia, but they return home almoſt every day, and are fed there. A conſiderable trade in ſalt pork is carried on in this valley. The population of Berkley-County amounts nearly to twenty-three thouſand inhabitants, three thouſand of whom are ſlaves. In this county, near the Potowmack, is ſituated the moſt frequented medicinal ſpring in the United States. Although it poſſeſſes leſs powerful qualities than the ſprings in the county of Auguſta, and is leſs hot; yet the beauty of the country, and its vicinity to the maritime provinces, which are the moſt populous, the neighbourhood of ſome ſmall towns, tolerably inhabited, and the great variety of accommodations which the village that ſurrounds the ſpring offers to the gueſts, induce the majority of patients to prefer it to the other ſprings.

GENERAL

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS ON VIRGINIA.

On croſſing the Potowmack we enter the ſtate of Maryland. But before I bid a laſt farewel to Virginia, I cannot forbear making ſome general obſervations on this State, which is ſo highly intereſting on account of its vaſt extent, the great number of repreſentatives it ſends to Congreſs, the influence which it is ſuppoſed to have over the Union in general, and over the ſouthern States in particular; and, laſtly, on account of the difference of opinion entertained by its partiſans and foes.

Nature has done much for Virginia, perhaps more than for any other ſtate of the Union. The ſoil is, in general, good, and extremely varied; the climate, no doubt, is rather hot in ſummer; the heat, however, is but little troubleſome, for the inhabitants are eaſily accuſtomed to it; on approaching or paſſing the mountains it becomes more moderate, and tolerable even in the midſt of ſummer: vegetation is wonderfully powerful

ful in Virginia, and the climate favours the culture of almoſt all known productions. Virginia, it is true, has no port on the Atlantic; but ſhe poſſeſſes a multiplicity of harbours on her numerous and beautiful rivers, the navigation of which admits of ſailing up very high to receive the produce of remote diſtricts; and, as has been already obſerved, the ſituation of North-Carolina is ſuch, that the overplus of the produce in grain of that extenſive State muſt in a great meaſure paſs through the hands of the merchants of Virginia. The want of ſea-ports, which is not attended with any inconvenience for Virginia, is, on the other hand, productive of the great advantage of being ſecure in time of war from the inſults of the enemy, who, in order to burn its towns or plunder the country, would be obliged either to land in another State, or to venture into the Cheſapeak. Theſe immenſe advantages are incontrovertibly poſſeſſed by Virginia, whoſe lower parts, although unhealthful, yet are not more ſo than thoſe of Maryland, of ſome diſtricts of Pennſylvania, and of the State of New-York, and are certainly more

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ſalubrious than the lower parts of the two Carolinas and Georgia. Virginia alſo enjoys the great additional advantage of being almoſt entirely free from all dangerous animals. The rattle-ſnake is uncommon to ſuch a degree, that a great many inhabitants who live in the woods never heard it mentioned. Let us now conſider, whether Virginia has improved theſe great advantages by her conſtitution, laws, and civil relations; what is her real ſtrength, her ſtrength in relation to the other ſtates, and what are her reſources.

The conſtitution of Virginia was formed the firſt of any of the United States; it is likewiſe the moſt imperfect. Repreſentation, the firſt baſis of every democratical conſtitution, is unequal in this ſtate. Each county ſends two repreſentatives to the legiſlature: but theſe counties vary in point of population ſo very much, that ſome furniſh only one company of militia, while others raiſe four battalions. Thus the proportional difference of repreſentation between the counties is as one to ſixteen. The organization of the ſenate is, in this point of view, equally

equally defective. In regard to the election of ſenators the State is divided into twelve diſtricts, which are compoſed of an unequal number of counties. Ten of theſe diſtricts lie between the ſea and the Blue-Ridge, and two only are ſituated beyond the mountains. In this latter part of the State the population is not ſo great as in that which is called Old Virginia: but it will ſoon become equal to it, becauſe many of the inhabitants of the old ſettlements emigrate either into the weſtern diſtricts, or beyond the mountains; at preſent even, it is more than half that of the other. There is, then, a ſtriking inequality likewiſe in the repreſentation of the ſenate, which is not compoſed, like that of the ſenate of the Union, and of ſome other States, of elements different from thoſe of the houſe of repreſentatives. The governor is a mere ſhadow of authority, he has not the power of performing any act but by the advice of his executive council, compoſed of eight perſons, two only of whom go out every year, according to the choice of the legiſlature. Thus the poſſibility that many of the members will hold their ſeats in the council

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for life gives them conſiderable influence, and adds a total want of authority to the impoſſibility of acting in which the governor is placed by the conſtitution.

This conſtitution is alſo objected to on the ground of its not being the work of a convention appointed *ad hoc*, but having been made by the legiſlature which exiſted under the Engliſh dominion, and which, after having ſhaken off the Britiſh yoke, modelled the conſtitution, without having been elected and aſſembled for that purpoſe, as in the other ſtates. This reproach might have had ſome foundation, although the circumſtances in which the legiſlature was placed at that time reduce it almoſt to nothing; but at this time it is altogether unfair, becauſe the conſtitution, made by an aſſembly whether competent or otherwiſe, has been adopted by the whole ſtate, and followed theſe twenty years paſt without the leaſt objection. Whatever, therefore, may be its advantages or inconveniences, its origin ſhould not be now a matter of reproach. Such as it is, it meets with much cenſure in the ſtate; and the number of thoſe who loudly demand an alteration,

teration, although from different motives, is very conſiderable. The law which places landed property out of the reach of creditors in the recovery of debts would be immoral in any country, and under any government whatever. In countries where ariſtocracy forms the leading principle of government, and it is intended to have a rich nobility and a ſucceſſion of opulent families, that principle is ſupported by fiduciary ſubſtitution. For family eſtates being there conſidered as permanent property, it is held, that the title of their preſent occupiers is confined to a mere uſufruct. This law, unjuſt as it is under ariſtocratic governments as any-where elſe, is there at leaſt a politic meaſure, in the ſenſe which under this ſort of government is attached to that term, and is moreover confined to the property of ſome families. But in a country where democracy forms the baſis of government, and whoſe conſtitution is preceded by a declaration of the rights of man, this law, deſtitute even of a pretext, is expoſed in all the diſgraceful nakedneſs of its native immorality. The law which goes ſo ſtrong againſt gambling

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is undoubtedly very moral and good; but ſo far from being duly enforced, it is publicly violated every day; gaming being no-where more practiſed, or productive of greater diſorders, than in Virginia. It would, therefore, be much better for the ſtate were gambling authorized by law; for of all diſorders, that of a public contempt of the laws is the moſt deſtructive to a civilized ſtate. Another great diſorder in the ſtate of Virginia is the habitual want of punctuality in the payment of debts; for, independently of the immorality of this part of the public manners, this bad habit, which enriches not even thoſe who do not pay, deprives the public wealth of many reſources, and injures all ſorts of improvements. The reſources of chicanery afford in Virginia, as they do every-where elſe, a ſtrong ſupport to this diſpoſition of the Virginian people; ſince the definitive ſentence of payment in regard to the cleareſt and moſt incontrovertible debt may be retarded full five years.

As to trade and commerce, Virginia, although very advantageouſly ſituated for the moſt extenſive commercial operations, yet

carries on but a very inconſiderable trade. The merchants are neither poſſeſſed of the ſame capitals, nor enjoy the ſame credit, as in the other trading ſtates of North America. So far are they from ſupplying with proviſions the back parts of the ſtate, that the latter draw them directly from Baltimore and Philadelphia.

The total value of the exports of the different ports of Virginia amounted in the year 1791 to 3,131,863 dollars; in 1792 to 3,542,823; in 1793 to 2,987,097; in 1794 to 3,320,636; and in 1795 to 3,490,043 dollars.

The population of Virginia ſhould ſeem very conſiderable, if we reflect that this ſtate ſends twenty-one members to the Congreſs of the Union, and that the population of each ſtate ſhould regulate the number of its repreſentatives at that general council. But this population, which by the cenſus of 1791 amounts to ſeven hundred and forty-ſeven thouſand ſix hundred and ten perſons, comprizes two hundred and ninety-ſeven thouſand ſix hundred and twenty-ſeven ſlaves. The area of the ſtate contains ſeventy thou-

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ſand ſquare miles; this makes per ſquare mile about ten two thirds of inhabitants, three ſeventhſ of whom are negro ſlaves. The population of the whites, which is undoubtedly increaſed by reproduction, gains nothing by migration; for no Virginian will deny, that the ſtate is loſing every year more by the emigration of its inhabitants than it obtains emigrants from other ſtates; ſo that this population, if well counted, is, perhaps, inferior to that of any other ſtate of the Union. In a great part of Virginia the heat of the climate, and the uſe of ſlaves, render that claſs of men idle and averſe to labour, who in the other ſtates, under different circumſtances, are ſpurred on to induſtry and activity by indigence and want. We find, accordingly, that a leſs quantity of land is cultivated here, in proportion to the extent and population of the country, than in other ſtates, and that but very few branches of induſtry have gained ground in Virginia, although the country is fitted for all thoſe which have been eſtabliſhed in other parts of the United States. There is no ſtate ſo entirely deſtitute of all means of public edu-

cation as Virginia; and it may be fairly ſaid, that the only college ſhe poſſeſſes is the moſt imperfect in point of inſtruction, and the worſt managed of any of the Union. On a candid conſideration of theſe circumſtances, it is impoſſible to praiſe with any degree of juſtice the power of the ſtate of Virginia.

The power of a ſtate is the reſult of its real ſtrength: Virginia, as has already been obſerved, is undoubtedly invited by nature to become the moſt powerful, or one of the moſt powerful, of the Union. But in order to attain this end, bad laws muſt be ſuperſeded by good ones; the manners muſt be corrected, induſtry encouraged, and the bounties of nature turned to advantage. Theſe are the reſources of Virginia, which futurity will call forth. As Virginia contains ſome men of public ſpirit and extenſive information, occupied with the welfare of the country and deſirous of effectuating it, and as the legiſlature itſelf ſeems to pay much attention to this point, the time of improvement may be near; but it is not yet come, and my obſervations merely apply to the preſent ſtate of things.

Virginia

Virginia influences at this moment the political opinion of Georgia and North-Carolina; the ſimilar manner in which theſe three ſtates vote at the congreſs at leaſt warrants this opinion. But Georgia is a feeble ſtate, from her poſition as well as population; and, were ſhe even more conſiderable under theſe points of view than ſhe actually is, yet the ſtate of diſorder which prevails there would reduce her ſtrength to nothing. North-Carolina is not in the ſame ſtate of diſorder, but poſſeſſes no ſtrength. Men of talents are more ſcarce there than in any of the other ſtates; and if ſhe ſhould obtain any, ſhe would probably be tired of the ſtate of dependence wherein ſhe is kept by her incapacity.

Virginia does not rely on South-Carolina, which may coincide with her in point of political opinion, yet deſires to have an opinion of her own, and ſcorns to acknowledge the ſuperiority or influence of another ſtate.

She ranks among her friends the ſtate of Kentucky, which was diſmembered from Virginia, and Teneſſée, whoſe intereſts perfectly concur with hers. She fancies alſo,

ſhe may rely on a part of Pennſylvania. But all theſe calculations are more than doubtful; and were they founded, they have no permanent grounds: they may be uſeful to carry a motion in Congreſs; but they do not increaſe the real ſtrength of Virginia, nor the reſources of a political body acting, or deſiring to act, independently of the Union.

The reproach frequently preferred againſt Virginia, that ſhe deſigns to induce the Southern States to withdraw from the Union, is certainly unfounded. Not one of the other ſtates is, perhaps, more attached to the federal government, than Virginia. The Virginians are unanimous in this opinion, and even reproach the Northern States with an intention of operating this diviſion; yet they hope, that Pennſylvania, or at leaſt that part which is ſituated on the left of the Suſquehannah, would aſſiſt them in defeating any attempt, in Congreſs, to bring on ſuch a rupture.

The Virginians generally enjoy a character for hoſpitality, which they truly deſerve; they are fond of company; their hoſpitality is ſincere, and may, perhaps, be the

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reaſon of their ſpending more than they ſhould do; for, in general, they are not rich, eſpecially in clear income. You find, therefore, very frequently a table well ſerved, and covered with plate, in a room where half the windows have been broken for ten years paſt, and will probably remain ſo ten years longer. But few houſes are in a tolerable ſtate of repair, and no part of their buildings is better kept than the ſtables, becauſe the Virginians are fond of races, hunting, in ſhort, of all pleaſures and amuſements which render it neceſſary to take peculiar care of horſes, as they are the faſhion of the day.

The Virginians are good huſbands, and good fathers; but, from a love of diſſipation, they keep leſs at home than the inhabitants of many other ſtates. I have heard ladies reproach them with being ſubject to jealouſy. This may be the caſe: in every country under the ſun diſſipated huſbands are jealous. The women are amiable, and enjoy the reputation of fulfilling their duty with the ſame exactneſs as in other parts of America, where the huſbands paſs more time with their wives. They are more

ſprightly and agreeable than in the Eaſtern States, but not ſo much ſo as in South-Carolina; nor are they ſo pretty as in Philadelphia. I have, however, ſeen Virginian ladies who are inferior to none in perſonal charms and graceful manners.

Virginia has, ſince the revolution, produced more men of diſtinguiſhed talents than, perhaps, any other ſtate of the Union. Fond as the inhabitants are of diſſipation, a taſte for reading is more prevalent among the gentlemen of the firſt claſs than in any other part of America; but the common people are, perhaps, more ignorant than elſewhere. During the war of the revolution, the Virginian troops were equally diſtinguiſhed for their valour and love of liberty; and the latter ſentiment is yet tremblingly alive among all claſſes of the people. The contraſt it forms with the maintenance of ſlavery is truly ſtriking; and ſpeeches on liberty and independence ſound rather ſtrangely from the lips of maſters of ſlaves. The Virginians are moſt of them aware of the inconveniences reſulting from ſlavery, even with reſpect to their own intereſts; but the means

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of abolishing it are liable to numberless difficulties in a country where the number of slaves is so considerable as in Virginia. Yet, on the other hand, it must be allowed that there are means, the execution of which, if undertaken with unanimity and spirit, would be less dangerous than many Virginians seem to apprehend. I shall speak more fully on this subject after my visit to Maryland. The Virginians are, in general, good masters; the sentiments of philanthropy, which have not yet gained sufficient ground in Virginia to prepare the emancipation of slaves, have however had influence enough to cause them to be better treated and fed. It is generally felt in Virginia, that absolute slavery cannot continue long; men of sense, at least, are convinced of the truth of this remark. Let us indulge in the hope, that this conviction will insensibly lead to some generous resolution, which will prove as beneficial to the masters as the slaves.

MINERALOGICAL OBSERVATIONS.

The depth of the layer of sand prevents any stone from being perceived in the vicinity

nity of Norfolk, yet at a ſhort diſtance from that place quarries are found and worked. The ſtones employed in building are quartz, feldſpar, and ſteatites. On the ſea-ſhore the ground conſiſts of a fine ſand, dry and light, but is in ſeveral inſtances pierced by rocks of granite. In *Diſmal-Swamp* the ſame fragments of trees are found buried and preſerved under the vegetable earth, in different degrees of depth, as in the plains which riſe in the form of a terrace near the bed of the river Connecticut. Theſe fragments are ſtill more abundant there: when dug out of the ground they are alſo in a ſoft ſtate, but grow hard when expoſed to the air. From the mouth of James-River, as far as the Blue Mountains, the ſame minerals are found as in the reſt of America. Near Cheſapeak-Bay you meet with irregular maſſes of granite, which farther on are replaced by regular layers of quartz, feldſpars, ſchoerl, and an argillaceous ſhiſtus. This ſucceſſion of minerals is found two or three times in the tract of country which is waſhed by James-River. Near York and Williamſburg you find large beds of oyſter-ſhells, four or five feet

feet in depth, which ſometimes appear above the ſurface of the ground; you alſo ſee ſtones compoſed of conglomerations of granite, and which ſeem to be a ſpecies of imperfect pudding-ſtone. The ſtones waſhed by the rapids of James-River at Richmond are a ſpecies of granite. On making an excavation at *Roquette*, large quantities of copperas-ſtone, enveloped in a bluiſh and very tender earth, were found. Theſe ſtones contain much copper; they are alſo ſaid to include a tolerable quantity of ſilver, but the preſence of this metal has not yet been aſcertained by any proper experiment, and much leſs its proportion.

At Dover, where the coal-mines which we viſited are ſituated, the ſoil conſiſts chiefly of a ſand-ſtone, interſperſed with fragments of granite, which when broken preſerve the original texture of the ſtone. It is in theſe layers that the coal is found in immediate contact with ſtone of a ſandy or argillaceous compoſition, and with a blue clay. That part of the country which contains the coal-mines is about ten miles in breadth, but its length is not yet aſcertained; it croſſes James-

James-River. The ſtrata of coal are in general thicker at the extremities and where they lie neareſt to the ſurface of the ground; their direction, which is from weſt to eaſt, forms with the horizon a very obtuſe angle. As ſoon as you leave this diſtrict, you meet again with granite, which now lies in layers, is interſperſed with mica, and ſeems in ſeveral inſtances to be a real cryſtallization. The ſoil is a hard clay. Some miles from Milton, at the foot of the South Mountains, there is a vein of lime-ſtone, formed like ſhiſtus, and placed between layers of perfect ſlate. When calcined, it yields excellent lime. This vein runs in a ſouth-weſt direction as far as the river Roanoke in North-Carolina, that is, one hundred and forty miles, and upwards of ſixty miles towards the north-eaſt. It is in no inſtances more than ten feet thick, and frequently leſs. In all the ſurrounding fields are found large detached maſſes of white quartz, reſting on layers of blue ſhiſtus; and likewiſe ſtrata of a greeniſh grey colour. Maſſes of granite are likewiſe very common in the vicinity of the South Mountains. There is alſo to be found

found a grey undulated rock, which eaſily ſeparates into ſheets, that contain a conſiderable quantity of magneſia. The ſoil which covers this ſmall chain of mountains (Eaſt, Green, and South Mountains) is of a reddiſh colour, and extremely fruitful. Between this ridge and the Blue Mountains the ground contains much ochre, and ſulphureous mundick is found there in great quantities. The valley between the Blue and North Mountains abounds with layers of lime-ſtone, ſeveral of which form an angle with the horizon. Near Keyſſel-Town, twenty-five miles from Staunton, they drop nearly perpendicularly, and are generally covered with a reddiſh earth, and ſometimes with granite of a yellow colour. Lime-ſtone is alſo found near Wincheſter; but further on it ſoon diſappears, and is replaced by a ſhiſtous and quartzous ſlate. Granite is only ſeen in a few detached maſſes on the road from Wincheſter to Harper's Ferry; and in progreſſive ſucceſſion we meet with layers of yellow ſhiſt, which eaſily ſeparates into thin ſheets, and is interſperſed with brilliant particles, reſembling mica, of a yellow ſlate

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and of lime-ſtone. The rocks in the Blue Mountains conſiſt near Harper's Ferry, as they do throughout this whole chain, chiefly of granite; but we alſo meet with free-ſtone and feldſpar. Near Frederick-Town, lime-ſtone is again ſeen; but free-ſtone, ſhiſt, and a ſpecies of micaceous ſand in the road to *Ellicot's-Mill*, are alſo found. The rocks which bound in this place the river *Potapſco* are calcareous ſtones.

TREES.

Among the numberleſs ſpecies of trees which grow in Virginia, are diſtinguiſhed the ſilver-leaved maple, the aſh-leaved maple, the climbing trumpet flower, the catalpa tree, the Carolinian allſpice, the iudas tree, the Virginian meſpilus (of which I have ſeen ſome twenty-five feet in height); cornel trees of different ſorts; the perſimon, the nickar tree, the triancanthus, walnut, various ſpecies of cedars, ſweet bay, benjamin tree, and another laurel of which I do not know the name; the maple-leaved liquid-cambar, the evergreen laurel-leaved tulip tree,

tree, the ſwamp pine, and many others; the black and Carolina poplar, various ſpecies of oak, the ſmooth ſumach, pſeudo-acacia, fringe-tree, &c.: but many of them, the tulip tree for inſtance, do not attain the ſame height in Virginia as in South-Carolina and Georgia. Although Virginia does not produce ſome trees, which grow only under a higher degree of latitude, yet it contains in my opinion a greater variety of ſpecies than any other ſtate. There is alſo a great multiplicity of plants, but they are leſs fragrant than in South-Carolina.

ROADS AND CANALS.

The Virginian legiſlature applies itſelf with peculiar care to the improvement of inland navigation. Several canals are either made, commenced, or projected, in places where the river navigation is intercepted by rapids; but, as in the reſt of the United States, art is not ſufficiently attended to in their conſtruction. Works of this kind are carried on without previouſly conſidering the beſt means of completing them; whence

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it is that they are often more imperfect, and always more expenſive, than they otherwiſe might be.

The roads are in general good throughout this ſtate; and although the inns are ſometimes bad, yet upon the whole they are better than in the other ſtates. Thoſe in the back country, where I have travelled, are preferable to the inns in many of the moſt inhabited parts of New-England.

JOURNEY TO FREDERICK-TOWN.

A boat takes up the travellers in Virginia, and lands them in Maryland. The Potowmack forms the limit of the two ſtates. You croſs it twenty toiſes from its confluence with the Shenandoah, and on croſſing over you enjoy this grand ſpectacle as well as from any other point. The mountains through which the Potowmack paſſes loſe in Maryland the name of the Blue-Ridge, and aſſume that of the South Mountains. The narrow road which leads to Baltimore, and which for four or five miles is an uninterrupted ſeries of ſolid or ſhifting ſtones, runs along

along the baſis of thoſe mountains, and the Potowmack, the bed of which is not grown wider from having received the Shenandoah. It flows amidſt fragments of rocks, which render its courſe uneven and noiſy. Six miles farther on you leave the Potowmack to aſcend the *Cooſooſky Mountains*, a chain of ſmall extent, from which the view of the Blue-Ridge, of the North Mountains, and the preceding ſmall heights, a part of which is cultivated, eſpecially in Maryland, and laſtly of the Potowmack, which you ſee a mile beyond the Blue-Ridge, forms a grand and delightful proſpect.

The South Mountains ſeparate the counties of Waſhington and Frederick. On purſuing the road which I travelled, you only touch Waſhington-County, one of the moſt healthy and fruitful parts of Maryland. It furniſhes all ſpecies of grain for the export trade of Baltimore, and alſo wrought-iron: it abounds with iron mines. The population of the county amounts to about fifteen thouſand ſouls, eighteen hundred of whom are negro ſlaves. Weſt of Waſhington-County is that of Alleghany, the laſt of the ſtates of Maryland in this direction.

The ſettlement of the country between Harper's Ferry and the Cooſooſky Mountains is juſt beginning. You meet with a few ſmall habitations, moſt of which have been built within theſe three years; they are miſerable log-houſes, with about twenty acres of cleared ground. The new ſettlers arrive moſtly from the environs of Lancaſter, and the county of Dauphin in Pennſylvania; many come alſo from the lower parts of Maryland, and ſome from Ireland. Theſe families appear to be an active and induſtrious kind of people. In this part of the country land fetches from eight to ten dollars the acre, and yet it is not better than on the other ſide of the river in Virginia, where it is ſold for four or five, and where the habitations are very ſcarce; yet the diſeaſe of the grain, called *widle*, is here unknown. The Potowmack forms on the north ſide the limit of this ſcourge, as the Blue Mountains do on the eaſt. No Heſſian flies are ſeen here, and the rot occurs but very ſeldom.

The harveſt is this year very plentiful, as in fact it is in all other parts; and thoſe farmers

farmers in Maryland who do not ſpeculate in grain, rejoice at the fall of its price. But many others, who have plunged into ſpeculations of this nature, will ſuſtain conſiderable loſſes from this ſudden fall. May this diſaſtrous experience render them more cautious and prudent for the future! A ſpirit of commercial ſpeculation in a farmer is the ruin of agriculture; his means are far inferior in extent to thoſe of a merchant in town, who makes up the loſs of one ſpeculation by the ſucceſs of another. But the farmer who loſes the value of his commodities, or is badly paid for them, contracts debts, cultivates his land with leſs care, is obliged to ſell his cattle, his crops are leſs plentiful, and the whole of ſociety thus ſhares his loſs; for the proſperity of cultivators is more intimately connected with the general welfare than that of any other induſtrious claſs of the people.

The Cooſooſky Mountains are tolerably cultivated; ſome of them are ſo up to their very ſummits. Farther on in the country habitations increaſe in number, culture expands, and the corn-fields grow larger: land

fetches in theſe mountains from twelve to fifteen dollars the acre, and this price continues much the ſame until we reach the environs of Frederick-Town. Meadows are there more frequent, and the abundance of water enables the farmers to water their graſs-lands, which is executed by ſome of them with a conſiderable ſhare of ſkill. The water is conducted through wooden pipes, which communicating from one height to another, frequently diſtant ſeveral hundred toiſes, traverſe the ſmall dale which ſeparates them. Timothy graſs and red clover form the artificial meadows of the country. White clover grows naturally pretty thick and fine.

Culture increaſes, the land grows better, and the meadows augment in number, in the vicinity of Frederick-Town. Land is ſold there for from twenty-five to thirty dollars the acre, and graſs-land for fifty.

FREDERICK-TOWN, THE CAPITAL OF FREDERICK-COUNTY.

This town, ſituated on the creek *Carolle*, a branch of the river *Monacaſy*, is very well built,

built. The greater number of houſes are ſtone buildings; the town-hall, poor-houſe, and court-houſe, are very fine ſtructures. The population of Frederick-Town amounts to about two thouſand ſouls, a fourth of whom are negroes. It carries on a conſiderable trade with the back country, which it ſupplies with merchandize drawn from Baltimore, and tranſmits to the latter place in return the produce of the back country, which is rich, fruitful, and thickly ſettled; in general, induſtry is beyond compariſon more active there than in Virginia.

A glaſs manufactory had been eſtabliſhed ſome miles from Frederick-Town. But, whether through the miſconduct or the misfortunes of the proprietors, who came from Bremen in Germany, from want of money, or perhaps from a coincidence of all theſe cauſes, this manufacture has ſhared the fate of almoſt all firſt eſtabliſhments of this nature, and is ſo near its deſtruction, that the latter may be conſidered as complete. The raw materials, I have been aſſured, are in great abundance near the ſpot where it is ſituated. If this be actually the caſe, it will

be relieved either by the preſent managers or others, which is immaterial in a public point of view; but it is of great importance for the country to poſſeſs a glaſs-manufactory, that may leſſen the quantity of this ſort of imports from England, which their fragility renders ſo profitable to the vender, and ſo indiſpenſibly neceſſary to the buyer. Maryland abounds in iron, and iron works are very numerous throughout the ſtate, which carries on a conſiderable trade in wrought-iron. Many of them are eſtabliſhed in the environs of Frederick-Town.

Frederick-County contains about thirty-one thouſand inhabitants, four thouſand of whom are negroes. Since 1791, the year when the cenſus was taken, the population of Frederick-County has been conſiderably increaſed by the emigration of families from other parts. The land is, in general, good, and produces wheat, rye, barley, and Indian corn, in conſiderable quantities for the export trade of Baltimore, and alſo ſome hemp and flax. Much flour is likewiſe ſent to Baltimore out of the county, where the number of mills is very conſiderable. The

country

country between Frederick-Town and Baltimore consists of a continual succession of small hills, and the road is very seldom even for a mile together. Although the country be upon the whole tolerably settled, yet there are many parts which are but thinly inhabited, and these are even more extensive than the rest. The nature of the wood indicates a fruitful soil. Tobacco was formerly cultivated in great quantities; but this species of culture, which has as much decreased in Maryland as in all the other Southern States, is here almost reduced to nothing. It has been superseded every-where by the culture of wheat, although the latter labours here under the same imperfections as in other places. They plough two or three inches deep: the fields are but seldom manured; and what little dung they gather is allotted to the grass land. From this careless conduct in regard to the preservation and augmentation of manure, it should seem that they are not sensible of its value.

POPLAR-SPRING.

On the 12th of July I ſpent the hotteſt part of the day at *Poplar-Spring*. Although this part of the country has been long ſettled, yet the number of new coloniſts far exceeds that of the ancient inhabitants. The price of land in the neighbourhood is from ten to twelve dollars the acre. The proceſs of clearing is much the ſame there as in all the other parts of America. Indian corn is ſown the firſt year, then follows wheat, frequently from ſix to ſeven years without interruption, or as long as the ſoil will bear any; afterwards it lies fallow until another part of the ground, which in the mean time has been cleared, is alſo exhauſted in its turn. As it demands more labour and care to convert woodland into meadows, much ground is left uncleared, which would make excellent graſs-land. Its turn will doubtleſs come, for the country is in an improving ſtate; but ſo much land is yet covered with wood, that many years will elapſe before a ſkilful and extenſive ſtate of cultivation can be eſtabliſhed.

The

The ground is throughout the whole country tilled with horſes, which coſt from one hundred and thirty to one hundred and forty dollars. The cows are fine, and worth from twenty-five to thirty dollars. Wheat is cut with the ſickle, but oats and rye with the ſcythe; labourers are eaſily procured, and paid at the rate of one dollar a day during the harveſt; at other times they receive three ſhillings a day (money of Maryland, which is of the ſame value as that of Pennſylvania), or eight dollars a month. Cattle fattened either in the fine meadows near Frederick-Town, or in other leſs rich paſtures, are ſent to Baltimore or Philadelphia. The inhabitants buy flour of the waggoners, who convey it to Baltimore, and pay nearly the ſame price as in this town. It fetches at this time eight dollars per barrel; but in the courſe of laſt January it was ſold for fourteen. During my ſtay at the inn I heard ſeveral farmers expreſs their ſatisfaction at the fall of the price of grain, on account of its being likely to occaſion failures among the merchants of Baltimore. "Theſe people," ſaid they, "have gained from us all they could, and

and carried it to France; and now they carry both our money and that of France to England: if they fail, it is what they deſerve."

They who doubt the diſpoſition of the American people in favour of France, if not wedded to their erroneous opinions, have but to travel among the country people, and they will find them full of miſtruſt, animoſity, and hatred againſt England, and well-diſpoſed in favour of the French nation. They will find the death of Louis XVI. and the crimes which ſucceeded it, as much deteſted as they are in England; but they will alſo meet with as many zealous partizans of the cauſe of France, and of that of true liberty, as perſons to converſe with on theſe topics: to cheriſh and commiſerate Fayette ſeems a ſort of religious duty in this country. They will alſo find, that the Preſident is univerſally reſpected, and that nobody is inclined to impute to him the injurious ſtipulation of the treaty of commerce, which is generally diſliked. Let me repeat it once more, that I wiſh to be underſtood as alluding to ſuch people only as from principle, and a ſenſe of their own intereſt, diſdain all connection

connection with England, and who may be juſtly called the true and real American people. I have diveſted myſelf to ſuch a degree of national prejudices and preconceived perſonal opinions on this ſubject, that I am ſure my obſervations on this head are founded in truth. They who are determined to differ from me in opinion may yet aſſert, that my prejudices have deceived me in ſpite of myſelf, or that the country people are a ſet of ignorant, ſtupid, and deluded perſons, and that the faculties of fair and candid diſcuſſion are concentrated in the cities. To aſſertions ſo ſtrange and illiberal I ſhall not reply; for why ſhould I argue with thoſe who are determined not to change their opinion?

ELLICOT'S-MILL.

From Poplar-Spring a road has been cut within a few years, which abridges by ſome miles the road to Baltimore. It is bad, and being quite new it paſſes but by very few habitations: about fifteen miles from Baltimore you perceive the manſion of Mr. *Carrol*,

Carrol, about a mile distant from the road. From the multiplicity of buildings united in his settlement, it has rather the appearance of a village, than of the habitation of a private gentleman. Mr. Carrol has united several establishments on this spot; he possesses an extensive farm, and a great number of negroes, but not having been in his plantation, I am not able to give a detailed account of it.

Ellicot's-Mill is a small village, the principal establishment of which is a large grist-mill belonging to Mr. Ellicot, and named after him. This mill has six pair of mill-stones, and is constructed as well as any of the mills of Brandywine, of which it possesses all the perfections. The situation of this place, encircled by mountains, is truly romantic. The water is clear, the rocks are high and majestic; and I could have wished to enjoy one day longer this view, which, being rather gloomy, was well adapted to my present frame of mind; but the scorching heat forced me to proceed to a more temperate part of the country.

I shall relate here, with all humility, what happened

happened to me with three Frenchmen of the Weſt-India Iſlands, whom I found at the inn, and one of whom I underſtood afterwards was Mr. Thomas, late French Conſul at Baltimore, and another his phyſician, who attended him to the Berkley waters. Although I addreſſed them in our native ſpeech, they conceived, from my modeſt way of travelling, ſo mean an opinion of me, that they reſolved to ſleep all three rather in a room which contained only two beds, than to ſuffer "*a poor devil of ſo mean an appearance*" to repoſe in the ſame room with one of them. This declaration, which was not made with the intention that I ſhould hear it, was overheard by me in a corner of the garden, where I was ſmoking my ſegar. As the obſervation concerned only my outward appearance, I did not think myſelf bound to take it up. I ſupped alone, and laid down on the floor on a mattreſs, which the miſtreſs of the houſe had placed in the ſecond room, where the coachman of theſe gentlemen had taken poſſeſſion of a good bed. I laughed on looking back to the time when the haughty Mr. Thomas would

would not have dreaded my company quite ſo much; and my ſleep was as ſound as if I had been called to the honour of ſleeping in the ſame room with Mr. Thomas himſelf.

BALTIMORE.

The road continues as mountainous, difficult, and covered with ſand and fragments of rocks, as before, until four or five miles from Baltimore. During the whole of this journey you ſee neither good nor numerous habitations; the land is but of a middling quality, in a great meaſure uncultivated, and the reſt in a very indifferent ſtate of improvement. Four or five miles from Baltimore the ground grows even, the habitations become more numerous, and aſſume a better appearance. In proportion as you draw nearer the town, the dwelling-houſes beſpeak more and more the wealth of its inhabitants, and the proſperity of its commerce.

The criminal juriſprudence of Maryland has not yet experienced any alteration in its ancient form, proceedings, or practice. The convicts

convicts work at the roads, loaded with irons. —What little work they perform is badly done, and they frequently effect their escape. This system is not by any means productive of more beneficial results in Maryland than it was in Pennsylvania, where it has been abolished. It will undoubtedly undergo a change.—But at what time?—And why has it not been yet suppressed?

Baltimore is, after Philadelphia and New-York, the most important trading port in America; at least, it disputes this rank with Charlestown and Boston. Being situated nearer to the rivers Youghiogeny and Mocongahel, which empty themselves into the Ohio by Pittsburg and Philadelphia, Baltimore possesses a part of the trade of the back country of Pennsylvania, supplies most of the stores which furnish the western territories with merchandize, and receives in return a part of their produce. It contains at present from four to five thousand houses, and has been almost entirely built since the peace of 1763. It has still more rapidly increased since 1783, and especially since the beginning of the present war. The inn-

keeper

keeper at Poplar-Spring told me, that in 1749, when he landed at Baltimore on his arrival from Germany, the whole place conſiſted of nine miſerable log-houſes, and now it is one of the fineſt towns on the Continent, as it contains no old houſes, and moſt of the preſent have been conſtructed of late years; they are all built on good principles, and moſtly of bricks. The numerous churches of all religious perſuaſions, as well as the public buildings, are conſtructed in a ſimple and elegant ſtyle. The town, which increaſes in every direction, gains in extent, particularly on the bay, where ſtreets are paved and formed on a ground wreſted from the ſea, and where a few years ſince veſſels were afloat. This ſort of work, to which the inſpectors of the town have aſſigned certain limits, extends daily. Ships of burthen cannot proceed higher up the river than *Fell's-Point*, at which place they load and unload. No buſineſs, however, is tranſacted at *Fell's-Point*; every thing being done at Baltimore, which is ſeparated from it by a flat and open ſpace of ground about a mile in extent. The merchants' counting-houſes

and

and principal warehouſes are at Baltimore; there being at *Fell's-Point* only a few inconſiderable warehouſes, which ſome of the merchants have for temporary purpoſes. If the trade of this city continues to increaſe as hitherto, the ſpace of ground lying between Baltimore and Fell's-Point will be covered with buildings, and the two places will form but one town. At preſent new houſes are building in every ſtreet; and the town ſpreads every day towards the harbour, and on the weſt ſide upon the grounds belonging to *Colonel Howard*, the value of which from this circumſtance increaſes continually.

The lands of this wealthy proprietor are, for the moſt part, let upon building-leaſes, which I imagine to be owing to ſcarcity of money among the ſpeculators in theſe buildings; for otherwiſe it is to be ſuppoſed he would prefer the ſelling of the grounds, which would enable him to diſpoſe of his property as circumſtances and his own judgement might point out. He never fails to ſell parcels of the ground, where he has an opportunity; and ſeveral of them having

been bought and ſold again, have made the fortunes of two or three ſpeculators.

About a mile from the town, at the extremity of his lands, Colonel Howard has a handſome houſe, ſurrounded with lofty and venerable trees. The ground, indeed, is a kind of park formed by nature. The houſe is delightfully ſituated upon an eminence, commanding a view of the city and the bay as far as the Cheſapeak, and on the right and left a great extent of highly-cultivated ground. This place (which is called *Belvedere)* is the uſual reſidence of Colonel Howard, who is univerſally eſteemed for his courage and military talents, and beloved for his private virtues. He was formerly governor of the ſtate of Maryland. He married *Miſs Chew*, daughter of my valuable friend Mr. Chew, of Philadelphia, whoſe talents and accompliſhments render her deſerving of the honour of belonging to that amiable family.

I made but a ſhort ſtay at Baltimore; and the greater part of the time I paſſed at Colonel Howard's. I had not, therefore, ſufficient

ficient opportunity to gain all the information I desired respecting this town and the State of Maryland; but I hope to procure it in my next Journey.

ANNAPOLIS.

Annapolis, the seat of the government of Maryland, is the usual residence of the great officers of state; and, the supreme court of justice holding its sittings there, it is the residence also of most of the principal lawyers. The first class of inhabitants at Baltimore is, of course, chiefly composed of merchants; more so, indeed, than at Philadelphia. Many mercantile houses in this country are likely to be affected by the fall in the price of provisions in Europe. At present, however, they keep up the price of flour at ten dollars; but this is mere speculation, as there is no foreign demand for it, nor would there be at a much lower price, the plenty or apparent plenty of corn is so great in Europe.

The public buildings are by no means magnificent. They are, however, tolerable.

The town has twelve churches belonging to the different ſects.

JOURNEY TO PHILADELPHIA.

My horſe being lame, I reſolved to go in the ſtage to Philadelphia. The ſtage is a miſerable mode of conveyance in America; the roads being very rough, and the carriages in a wretched condition. The coaches ſet out in the middle of the night, and no time is given to recover a little by repoſe from the terrible ſtate into which one is put by the jolting of the carriage, by too many paſſengers being crowded together, and the trunks and parcels which are thruſt into the inſide of theſe vehicles bruiſing one's legs, that have not room to be ſtretched out if theſe packages were not in the way. But I had no other means of proceeding to Philadelphia, at leaſt for ſome time; and I contrived to make this journey as little inconvenient as could be for a ſtage-coach, by going in that which carries the mail, and which, being obliged to proceed more quickly, takes only

ſix

ſix paſſengers, is provided with better horſes, and is, in all reſpects, better conducted. I had fortunately no fellow-travellers but the family of Mr. *James Barré*, a merchant of Baltimore, from whom I had received many civilities during my ſhort ſtay in that town; and although we were ſeven, inſtead of ſix, I had no reaſon to complain. But it is not in a ſtage that the traveller can purſue his enquiries; he ſcarcely ſees any thing of the country, and frequently cannot even learn the names of the villages and creeks he paſſes. As I hope to make this journey on horſeback, I ſhall, till then, poſtpone the greater part of what I have to ſay reſpecting this road.

At *Havre de Grace* we croſſed the Suſquehannah, near the place where it falls into the Cheſapeak. The country, which riſes on each ſide of the river, is not ill cultivated; and has a ſufficient number of dwellings to form a very pleaſing proſpect. The Suſquehannah in this place is above a mile and a quarter in breadth. Three or four ſmall iſlands, both above and below the ferry, have a good effect; and this view, although not

grand, is one of the moſt beautiful I have ſeen in America.

The Suſquehannah cuts Maryland into two parts; one of which is called the *Weſtern Shore*, and the other the *Eaſtern Shore*. The latter extends along the Cheſapeak, to the two counties of Virginia; and is ſeparated from Delaware-Bay by the State of Delaware. We paſſed through ſeveral ſmall and neat towns, belonging to the State of Maryland; ſuch as *Charles-Town*, *Elk-Town*, &c. After which, we entered the State of Delaware, and croſſed the towns of *Chriſtiana* and *Wilmington*; the latter of which is only twenty miles from Philadelphia.

RESIDENCE AT PHILADELPHIA.

We ſet out from Baltimore at four o'clock on Monday morning, and arrived at Philadelphia on Tueſday, July 20th, at eight in the morning, having ſtopped five or ſix hours at Wilmington, which time was deſtined to ſleep, but was entirely given to the bugs and fleas that ſwarm there.

The heat of this ſummer being by no means

means ſo intenſe as is uſual here, I was not ſo much incommoded by it as I expected. Having got my letters, and informed myſelf of the ſtate of Europe, I was in haſte to quit Philadelphia.

The price of flour in Philadelphia has not fallen ſo much as might be expected. The merchants keep it up at twelve dollars; but they can ſell only to bakers, who wanted money or foreſight to lay in a ſtock or purchaſe it in the country. The warehouſes are filled with this article; and a fall in the price muſt be haſtened by the great plenty of the preſent harveſt.

I muſt not omit to mention a very great natural curioſity, that I ſaw on my journey to Philadelphia—a negro of Virginia, whoſe parents were both negroes; and who, gradually changing his native hue, became white. This man continued black till he was forty years of age, when the ſkin of his fingers, near the nails, began at firſt to aſſume a lighter colour, and continued to grow lighter and lighter till it was perfectly white. The proceſs was the ſame in almoſt all the different parts of his body. His legs,

thighs, arms, and hands, are white, with the exception of a few ſpots of different ſizes, which are brown, ſome of a deeper ſhade than others, but all being lighter towards the edges. His neck and ſhoulders are of the ſame complexion as the ſkin of people with red hair; and is freckled in the ſame manner. Straight and ſmooth hair is partially ſubſtituted for his natural wool. On his breaſt there remain tufts of the wool; but they fall off daily, and are ſucceeded by black or grey hairs. His face is white from the hair to the loweſt extremity of his forehead; his noſe is black; the reſt of his face a kind of brown, deepeſt toward the noſe, and gradually growing light as it approaches the white part. His head, all of which is black, is ſtill covered with wool; except at the crown, where hair has diſplaced the wool. His private parts, he ſays, are leſs advanced in this progreſs, although the change is begun in them. By his own account, a ſenſible progreſs has been made in this metamorphoſis of his perſon during the time he has been travelling, which has been for the laſt three months; and there is no

doubt

doubt but in a ſhort time he will become entirely white. He is, at preſent, one and forty years of age.

To form a diſtinct idea of this metamorphoſis, the white colour of the ſkin is not to be underſtood to reſemble that of an *Albino*, but to be the real complexion of white people, or, to ſpeak more particularly ſtill, of white people with red hair.

There is no reaſon to queſtion the extraction of this negro; he having ſerved the whole of laſt war in a corps of pioneers, and is beſides well known in Virginia, where he has generally reſided, and furniſhed with certificates ſufficient to ſatisfy perſons diſpoſed to queſtion the fact. The change has not been attended with any ſickneſs. This man travels about the country to ſhew himſelf for money. It is to be obſerved, that there have been ſeveral inſtances in America of negroes, either Mulattos or Indians, changing their colour; ſome after illneſs, and others in a perfect ſtate of health; but there is no inſtance of the change being as complete as this.

SECOND

SECOND TOUR TO THE NORTH.

JOURNEY FROM PHILADELPHIA TO NEW-YORK.

HAVING determined to employ the remainder of the year in a ſecond journey to the North, I ſet out in a ſtage from Philadelphia for New-York; I was deſirous of loſing no time on the road, and the heat of the weather made it very fatiguing and inconvenient to travel on horſeback.

I had an opportunity of ſeeing ſeveral of my friends during a ſtay of twenty-four hours at *Trenton*. What information I could procure there I propoſe to blend with the reſult of the enquiries I ſhall make in a longer viſit to Jerſey. What I collected at New-York, during the ſhort time I ſtaid there, ſhall alſo be hereafter noticed; but I had too little opportunity to make my account as copious and perfect as I could wiſh. Letters from Europe, to which I was compelled to pay great attention, engaged much of my time; and not without reaſon. The fatigue of four ſucceſſive months employed in collecting

lecting information had, I confeſs, inclined me to take my eaſe; with which temper I was unwilling to quarrel, having determined to ſet aſide ſeveral weeks before my departure from America to acquire a competent knowledge of that intereſting city. I learned, however, that ſpeculations in corn and flour have greatly deranged the affairs of ſeveral mercantile houſes at New-York; that one of the firſt houſes has failed from the ſame cauſe; and that others are on the eve of following it. The merchants of that city, either leſs wealthy or leſs adventurous than thoſe of Philadelphia, have lowered the price of flour to ten dollars, which is a third leſs than it was ſix months ſince; but even this price is greatly higher than it ought to be, from the demand for American flour in Europe.

PASSAGE FROM NEW-YORK TO PROVIDENCE.

As I was already well acquainted with the Boſton road by land, I embarked on board the *Clementina*, one of the pacquets that ſail conſtantly

conſtantly to Providence. Mr. Guillemar, whom I had met at Trenton, had loſt his way; and having joined me again at New-York, he took his paſſage with me in the ſame packet.

For the firſt eighteen hours the wind was very favourable; but then ſuddenly changed, and being in our teeth, and there being every appearance of an approaching ſtorm, the captain judged it prudent to make for a ſecure harbour. We therefore quitted our track, and landed at *Stonning-Town*, where we remained thirty-ſix hours.

STONNING-TOWN; ITS TRADE; AGRICULTURE OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD; AND PRICES OF ITS PRODUCTIONS.

Stonning-Town is a ſmall ſea-port of Connecticut. It takes its name from the firſt proprietor of the lands which form the townſhip. The name, however, is corrupted to *Stones-Town*; which ſeems to be natural enough, for the rocks project into the ſtreets in every quarter. The principal ſtreet is cleared with great expence and labour;

bour; but the reſt are ſo encumbered, that it is with difficulty, and not without danger, a perſon walks along them at night. The townſhip is fifteen miles in length, and eight in breadth. The town contains from twelve to thirteen hundred ſouls. The land is chiefly employed in paſturage; on which a conſiderable quantity of cattle is reared; but the chief produce is cheeſe, which is made in great abundance, and is in great requeſt throughout America. Four hundred thouſand pounds of cheeſe are yearly exported from Stonning-Town to the different ports of the United States; but chiefly to Boſton, New-York, Philadelphia, and Baltimore. The price at theſe places is about eight pence half-penny per pound. This commerce is carried on partly by veſſels that come purpoſely to purchaſe cheeſe at Stonning-Town, and partly by ſmall ſloops belonging to the port which ſail for the different ports of the States, as the wind happens to ſerve.

I viſited a farm belonging to an old Quaker, named *John Friſh*, where from fourteen to fifteen thouſand pounds of cheeſe

are

are made annually. This farmer keeps from forty to fifty cows. The price he gets from the merchants for his cheeſe is about five pence half-penny per pound. He alſo fattens from twelve to fifteen oxen yearly; and raiſes rye, oats, Indian corn, flax, and potatoes; and might, with a little more knowledge of his buſineſs, conſiderably increaſe the produce of his farm. His cows and oxen wander at pleaſure over the land; which although manured by this means, does not receive the benefit it would if the manure were diſtributed more ſkilfully. He mows his meadows but once a year; and they produce about forty hundred weight of hay per acre.

This ſyſtem of farming is general here; and the produce is nearly the ſame throughout. Meadows properly manured, and mowed three times, yield eighty hundred weight of hay per acre. John Friſh has one hundred acres in cultivation.

The land in the townſhip of Stonning-Town is tolerably good; it yields thirty buſhels of Indian corn per acre; eighteen of rye or oats; and often double this quantity when

when the fields are manured. Upon the whole, little wheat is produced in this township, or the adjoining one of Connecticut. Some fields are ſown with it on the frontiers, and land which is properly manured, yields forty buſhels per acre. Labourers are eaſily procured in the neighbourhood of Stonning-Town; their ordinary wages are three fourths of a dollar per day, or nine dollars per month, but they are as much again during the harveſt.

The price of land here is from ten to forty dollars per acre. It has not riſen of late years, in the ſame degree as in many other parts of America. Thirty-three years ago John Friſh purchaſed his land at the rate of ſixteen dollars per acre, and could not now get more than thirty-two for it. Moſt of the inhabitants of Stonning-Town, as well as thoſe of the reſt of Connecticut, and of Maſſachuſetts, poſſeſs lands in the back parts of the States of Vermont and New-Hampſhire, which they purchaſed very cheap, and where they eſtabliſh their children as they grow up, unleſs they meet with an opportunity

tunity of ſettling them more advantageouſly at home.

A few veſſels belonging to Stonning-Town are employed in the cod-fiſhery on the coaſt of Connecticut and Rhode-Iſland: but as this fiſh appears in abundance only in the ſpring, the fiſhery here forms but a very inconſiderable branch of trade. The fiſh are cured in Stonning-Town, and ſold at the rate of five dollars for one hundred and twenty-eight pounds. A ſmall number of ſhips are alſo employed in the fiſhery at the Great Bank; but they cure their fiſh at Newfoundland, and frequently carry them to Boſton, or other ports. Black-fiſh, baſs, and crab, being in great abundance on this coaſt, a conſiderable number of ſmall craft is engaged in that fiſhery. The fiſh are kept in ponds along the ſhore, and are generally carried to New-York. At Stonning-Town they ſell for two pence half-penny per pound.

Forty veſſels of different burthen, but moſtly ſmall, belong to this place, which are principally employed in the coaſting-trade. Inſtead of ſixteen ſhips, formerly engaged in the

the fiſhery, at preſent four only carry on that trade. Some ſail to the Weſt-Indies, and even to Europe. The only three-maſted ſhip belonging to Stonning-Town is at this time in France. She is the property of Mr. Smith, who keeps a ſtore in this town, and of a merchant of New-York, who owns half of the veſſel. The ſhips which trade to the Weſt-Indies carry thither the produce of the townſhip and the country in its vicinity, and bring commonly in return the commodities of the iſlands; which are afterwards conveyed from Stonning-Town to New-York, where moſt of the ſhips that ſail for Europe take in their cargoes. They proceed chiefly to France, whence they bring in return brandy and wine. The produce of Stonning-Town, like that of the whole State of Connecticut, conſiſts of ſalt beef and pork, pot and pearl aſhes, neat cattle and flax-ſeed.

As the port of Stonning-Town, with reſpect to the cuſtoms, is comprized in the diſtrict of New-London, its exports are not exactly known.

Although Stonning-Town is ſituated in Connecticut, yet it has no public ſchools,

that is to ſay, no tax is levied in the townſhip appropriated to the ſupport of free-ſchools. But as this townſhip pays to the ſtate a tax of two and a half per cent for theſe ſchools, it follows that the expence of ſchooling amounts for ſuch inhabitants as ſend their children to the public ſchools to a fourth only of what they would have to pay without that general tax. Nine pence a week is paid for a child.

Every perſon I have had an opportunity of converſing with in Stonning-Town ſpeaks with enthuſiaſm of the gallantry diſplayed by the French troops, whoſe valour and ſucceſs have gained France numerous friends in America. The atrocious deeds, at the remembrance of which poſterity will ſtand aghaſt, are, notwithſtanding, deteſted by them: but you meet with many people who either forbear mentioning them at all, or conſidering them as the reſults of a tranſient phrenſy, impute their guilt chiefly to Robeſpierre, whom they hold in execration, and acquit the French nation at large. They generally conclude by ſaying—"But how the French fight! they are lions!" It is

eſpecially

eſpecially among country-people, and perſons of the ſecond rank, I hear this language; and theſe form the bulk of the nation; who, as I have already frequently obſerved, being leſs influenced by political views, and leſs ſwayed by the ſpirit of party, than the higher claſſes of ſociety, are more ſtrenuouſly attached to France, their intereſts not being interwoven with the ſucceſſes of Great Britain.

NEWPORT.

Impatience, rather than a favourable change of wind, having induced our captain to ſet ſail from Stonning-Town, we arrived at Newport on the 15th of Auguſt, after a paſſage of ten hours. We ſhould have had as favourable an opportunity the preceding day.

Mr. Guillemard proceeded to Providence by land.

A bar of rocks, about half a mile in extent, lies at the mouth of the ſmall bay at the bottom of which Stonning-Town is ſituated. Great care is therefore required to ſteer clear of it, eſpecially in ſtormy

weather; having cleared it, we ſailed in the courſe generally purſued by ſhips bound from New-York to Newport. We paſſed between the ſhore and *Block-Iſland*, an iſland famous, like Stonning-Town, for its cheeſe, yet ſtill more ſo for its fiſhery, and the huſbandry of its inhabitants. It forms a part of the State of Rhode-Iſland.

The Providence packets have generally parcels and letters for New-port. We ſtopped there from nine at night to nine in the morning. It gave me pleaſure to ſee once more, not this dull low town, but its environs, which form a charming landſcape, and are, as well as the whole iſland, one of the moſt healthy parts of America. Several families of Carolina, Virginia, and Maryland, come to reſide here every year to avoid the dreadful heat and inſalubrity of their own country. Newport alſo unites the advantage of a low price for all the neceſſaries of life with that of not offering any means, nor holding out any temptation, for expences foreign to the neceſſities of exiſtence.

The ſalubrity of the town of Newport is, no doubt, produced by the keenneſs of the air;

air; yet this often proves hurtful to the inhabitants in their youth, and the number of young people, especially girls, who die of complaints in the lungs, is very considerable. It is a circumstance worthy of remark, that the inscription on the tomb-stones mention only childhood, youth, or old age; they record the deaths of few persons between twenty and seventy years old, but a considerable number beyond the latter age.

PROVIDENCE.—STATE OF RHODE-ISLAND.

The religious persecutions in England gave rise to the different colonies which by their union composed the state of Massachusetts. Religious persecution in Massachusetts gave birth to the state of Rhode-Island.

Roger Williams, a minister of the gospel at Plymouth, was first banished thence to Salem on account of certain opinions which his brethren of Plymouth would not tolerate in him. Although much beloved by the inhabitants of this new place of residence, yet, as his principles did not accord with those

of the church of Boſton, the influence of the Boſtonian miniſters prevailed againſt him even in his retreat.

Among the various articles of his doctrine which the ſynod of Boſton conſidered as erroneous and dangerous, that which, above all the others, moſt violently claſhed with the maxims and intereſts of the ſynod, was his declaration "that puniſhment inflicted for matters of conſcience was perſecution."

The intrigues of the prieſts prevailed over the attachment of his fellow-inhabitants, and he was a ſecond time baniſhed. This event took place in 1636; and he retired to the ſouthern part of the ſtate to live among the Nawangara ſavages, at a place by them called Moſhawſick, but to which he gave the appellation of *Providence*, in grateful acknowledgement of the aſylum he found there after all the perſecutions to which he had been expoſed. A few friends followed him, and together with him founded that part of the ſtate of Rhode-Iſland known by the name of *Providence-Plantation*.

The ſame or a ſimilar cauſe gave riſe to the other ſettlements of Rhode-Iſland. A

Doctor

Doctor Coddington, a native of Lancaſhire, and one of the firſt ſettlers in the colony of Salem, was, in 1636, called to account for his religious principles. The accuſation brought againſt him was only a pretext to cloke the jealouſy entertained of his influence by Governor Winthrop and others: but that pretext was an effectual mean of accompliſhing their views; and Coddington, being baniſhed from Boſton, retired with a few friends to the iſland called by the Indians Aquidneck, and ſince known by the name of Rhode-Iſland. From a tribe dependent on the Indians of Nawangara he purchaſed this iſle, and all the others which, with the part of the continent bounded by Connecticut, now form the Rhode-Iſland Plantation.

The Quakers and Anabaptiſts who were perſecuted in New-England, flocked to Rhode-Iſland, and raiſed the colony to a flouriſhing ſtate, notwithſtanding the wars with the Indians. The need in which the inhabitants ſtood of protection inſpired them with a wiſh to unite with the other colonies of New-England: but the latter refuſed to accede to

the propoſed union; and, in 1662, Charles the Second, at the requeſt of the former, granted them a charter which united the two plantations into one ſtate, and conferred on them the privileges and the conſtitution which they, like the ſtate of Connecticut, have ſtill preſerved notwithſtanding the revolution.

That which is peculiar to the ſtate of Rhode-Iſland is compoſed of the ſame elements as all the others. The legiſlative aſſembly conſiſts of an upper and a lower houſe. The former is compoſed of the governor (who is preſident), a deputy-governor, and ten aſſiſtants, who are choſen by annual election. The governor poſſeſſes but a ſingle vote in the enactment of laws. The treaſurer and the ſecretary of ſtate are alſo annually appointed. — The lower houſe conſiſts of the repreſentatives of the different townſhips. Newport ſends ſix; Providence, Portſmouth on the iſland, and Warwick, each four; and two are ſent by each of the other towns in the ſtate. Theſe delegates are elected twice in the year, and thus have two ſeſſions.—The judges and the executive

executive officers are elected once a-year by the legiſlative body, who alſo nominate the military officers, but for an indefinite term.—The judicial power in this little ſtate is veſted in a ſupreme court, conſiſting of five judges, and ſitting twice in the year, at Providence and Newport alternately. The inferior courts are held twice a-year in each county. The ſupreme court is their court of appeal.

The trade of Providence employs a hundred and forty-two veſſels belonging to that port; and very little of it is ſhared by foreign ſhips, even by thoſe of the other ſtates. That trade, as I think I remarked laſt year, conſiſts in the exportation of oxen, live hogs, ſalt pork, butter and cheeſe, barley, timber, onions, rum, whiſkey, gin, flax-ſeed, wrought iron, and the commodities imported from the Eaſt and Weſt Indies. The greater part of the cheeſe, however, is conſumed in the United States, to which the port of Providence alſo ſends great quantities of lime-ſtone, and ſome iron. All the native articles above enumerated are principally derived from thoſe parts of Connecticut and Maſſachuſetts which lie within the diſtance of twenty

twenty or thirty miles from Rhode-Iſland. The iron is forged within the ſtate, at the falls of Potoſky, round which lies a very rich mine. Cannons and anchors are there fabricated; of the latter of which a pretty conſiderable number are exported to the Indies. The value of the exports from Providence was—in 1790, from the month of June, one hundred and thirteen thouſand, two hundred and thirty-one dollars—in 1791, three hundred and ſeventy-nine thouſand, four hundred and thirty—in 1792, three hundred and ſixty-ſeven thouſand, nine hundred and nine—in 1793, four hundred and thirty-one thouſand, five hundred and eighteen—in 1794, ſix hundred and twenty-three thouſand, two hundred and ſixty-one—in 1795, one million forty thouſand and five—and, for the firſt ſix months of 1796, four hundred and thirteen thouſand, nine hundred and twenty-four.

This great increaſe in the value of the exports is not here, any more than elſewhere, a true criterion of their quantities; for, although I have not had time to take from the cuſtom-houſe books an abſtract of the different

ferent articles year by year, and to compare their eſtimated values, I know that the tonnage of the port of Providence has increaſed only in a very ſmall proportion; ſince it amounted in 1792 to eleven thouſand two hundred tons, and does not at preſent exceed fourteen thouſand five hundred. It is true, that, during the laſt year, the ſhipping of that port ſuffered loſſes to the amount of eleven or twelve hundred tons by ſhipwreck, captures, &c.

The commerce of Providence is carried on with the Eaſt and Weſt Indies, Denmark, the north of Germany, and the coaſts of Africa. Some of her veſſels trade to France; but the number of theſe is very ſmall. They uſually carry thither tobacco and train-oil: during the two laſt years they carried rice, meal, ſalt beef, raw hides, and ſhoes for the army.—Providence and Newport carry on no trade with England: whatever Britiſh commodities they want, they purchaſe at New-York and Boſton.

To the value of the exports from Providence may be added about eight hundred thouſand dollars in ſpecie which are annually ſent

ſent out for the trade with India and China; ſince that money may truly be called the produce, inaſmuch as it is the fruit of the produce, of the ſtate.

The laws of Rhode-Iſland are not collected into a regular code. But I underſtand that a law was enacted ſome years ſince, prohibiting the importation of negro ſlaves into the ſtate—declaring free all ſuch as ſhould be brought into it by perſons coming from other parts, together with the children who might thereafter be born, as well as thoſe already born, when they ſhould have attained the age of twenty one years—but at the ſame time confirming the ſlavery of ſuch negroes as were ſlaves at the time of the promulgation of the law.

The principles on which are grounded the aſſeſſment and levying of the taxes in the ſtate of Rhode-Iſland are eſſentially the ſame as they were at the period of the firſt ſettlement of the colony. The changes which have ſince been introduced in the mode of collection, are ſlight. Thoſe taxes are a capitation, a tax on real and perſonal property, from which a law of 1795 excepts, as untaxable

taxable articles, all furniture (not including plate), implements of agriculture, workmen's tools, and a quarter of the capital employed in trade on ſea. The raiſing of the taxes reſts with each town or townſhip, which is reſponſible to the ſtate-treaſurer for the proportion of the taxes aſſigned to it by the legiſlature. The ratio is regulated by a general valuation made from time to time, at thoſe periods when the wealth of the ſtate is ſuppoſed to have been augmented to a certain degree, either by an increaſe in the population, or by improvements in agriculture, or by the profits of ſucceſsful commerce. The laſt three valuations took place in 1767, 1778, and 1795. On the firſt of thoſe occaſions the taxable property was valued at ſeven millions three hundred and ſeventy-one thouſand one hundred and eighty-ſix dollars; on the ſecond, at ten millions nine hundred and ſixty-ſeven thouſand nine hundred and nine dollars; and, in 1795, at fifteen millions five hundred thouſand dollars. It appears that this augmentation in the quantum of taxable property is attributable

ble to the increaſe of the capitals employed in trade, more than to any other cauſe.

Each town or townſhip nominates three or five commiſſioners, whoſe duty it is to make the eſtimate of the property therein contained, after having received the declarations of the inhabitants. The legiſlature nominates ten ſuperior commiſſioners, who are to viſit the towns and townſhips, to receive and examine the eſtimates of thoſe firſt-mentioned officers, and, after ſuch examination, to determine the portion of the general tax impoſed by the ſtate, which is to be paid by each place.

The law provides precautions againſt falſe declarations or the refuſal to make any, and alſo againſt ſuch towns as may either refuſe or delay the payment.

The capitation-tax is ſettled in the proportion of ſix-pence for every thouſand pounds rated to the ſtate. The towns may nevertheleſs ſet aſide this tax, provided they contribute their quota toward ſatisfying the public demand in ſome other mode. The town of Providence, for inſtance, levies her proportion

proportion of it only on movable and immovable eſtates.

Aſſeſſors, choſen by the inhabitants, afterward determine the particular ſum to be paid by each individual who is liable to the tax; which is collected by an officer choſen in the ſame manner. The towns defray the charges of aſſeſſment and collection. The aſſeſſor receives one and three fourths per cent on the ſums aſſeſſed: the collector heretofore received five per cent: but ſome towns contract with the latter on lower terms; and there are inſtances in which he is paid no more than two and a half per cent.

The taxes of the ſtate of Rhode-Iſland, as I have already obſerved, amount only to ſix thouſand pounds, or twenty-thouſand dollars, and are regularly paid. The expence of the civil liſt is but five thouſand dollars. For ſeveral ſucceſſive years an annual ſum of eight thouſand five hundred dollars has been expended on the erection of a priſon and a houſe for the ſittings of the legiſlative body. The ſtate owes about ninety-eight thouſand dollars, and has, for the diſcharge of that ſum, no other reſource than taxation. By

the

the deciſion of the commiſſioners appointed to ſettle the accounts between the United States and the individual ſtates, Rhode-Iſland is creditor to the Union to the amount of two hundred and eighty-nine thouſand ſix hundred and eleven dollars.

PROVIDENCE.

The town of Providence, though in general healthy, is not however exempt from bilious fevers toward the end of ſummer and in autumn; but theſe complaints are uſually unattended with danger. Conſumptions in youthful habits are as common here as at Newport; and many individuals fall victims to them before the age of thirty.

We—for I have again joined company with Monſieur Guillemard—we have paſſed the chief part of the time that we ſpent in Providence, at the houſe of Mr. Thayer, a merchant of this town, with whom I had been acquainted at Charleſton, where he has long reſided, and carried on with prodigious ſucceſs a very extenſive and rich trade. He conducted his great commercial enterprizes

enterprizes with a ſufficient degree of prudence to avoid thoſe ſpeculations ſo common among the merchants of America; yet that caution has not ſaved him from experiencing the greateſt reverſes in his fortune. He had indorſed to a conſiderable amount the notes of a houſe at New-York, one of the moſt opulent and reſpectable in that city. But the houſe in queſtion had ſo deeply ſpeculated on the high prices of flour and rice in Europe, that it has ſtopped payment, and the reſponſibility falls on Mr. Thayer. He will not be ruined by this event: in all probability even his affairs will be ſettled; for the houſe at New-York will again carry on buſineſs, and he himſelf, by his own ſingle exertions, would, at his preſent ſtage of life, be capable of retrieving his fortune if it were totally ruined. But his credit and his delicacy ſuffer ſeverely on the occaſion. He nevertheleſs ſupports his diſaſter with a calm fortitude, and a confidence in the return of fortune, which at once furniſh his friends with a ground of hope, and himſelf with the means of ſucceſs. His name is ſo implicated in this unfortunate buſineſs, that

he has made, to thoſe who hold the notes of that houſe endorſed by him, an offer of forty thouſand pounds ſterling on condition of their cancelling his name. Mr. Thayer is otherwiſe rich, being heir to a conſiderable family eſtate which is in the hands of his mother. He is deſcended in a direct line from Roger Williams, the founder of Providence Plantation. Mr. Thayer's houſe is built on the ſame ſpot where that founder, his progenitor, cut down the firſt tree, and erected the firſt hut.

I have learned here that the bridge which had been erected laſt year over the Eaſt-Paſſage to open a way into Rhode-Iſland, and of which the ſolidity appeared doubtful, was carried away laſt winter by the floods. It has ſince been rebuilt; and hopes are now entertained that this new conſtruction is on a better plan than the former.

ROUTE TO BOSTON.—PATUXENT.

Again the ſtage from Providence to Boſton! The journey is only forty-five miles: yet, with the ſingle exception of Mr.

Mr. Robram, a native of Pruſſia, but ſince become more than half a Frenchman by a reſidence of ſix and twenty years at Bordeaux as a merchant, the company was ſuch as ſtrongly confirmed me in my averſion to ſtage-coaches.

Patuxent bridge, at the diſtance of five miles from Providence, is the boundary of the ſtate of Rhode-Iſland. Here are eſtabliſhed cotton-works which ſeem to ſucceed better than any other manufacture hitherto eſtabliſhed in America—anchor-forges—founderies for cannon and other heavy articles in iron. The river Patuxent, alſo called Blackſtone, gives motion to all the machines uſed in theſe various works. It takes its riſe in the ſtate of Maſſachuſetts, and falls into Narraganſee-Bay near Providence. From Patuxent to its mouth it is navigable for veſſels of the largeſt ſize.

On his way to Boſton, the traveller paſſes through Briſtol-County, containing a population of thirty-four thouſand ſouls in an extent of thirteen hundred and forty-four ſquare miles.—Norfolk-County, whoſe ſuperficial extent is nine hundred and ſixteen

ſquare miles, containing twenty-five thouſand inhabitants—and the towns of Taunton and Durham, each the capital of a county of ſimilar name. Durham is the place of reſidence of Mr. Ames, a well-informed member of Congreſs, a warm federaliſt, a voluble and copious ſpeaker, an honeſt man moreover, but whoſe talents and political merit are exaggerated by party-zeal perhaps beyond their juſt value, and ſufficiently ſo to call forth a ſeverity of judgement on him even from impartial perſons who, but for that exaggeration, might have been diſpoſed to feel a prepoſſeſſion in his favour. He ſtands at this moment in great celebrity for a ſpeech that he delivered at the cloſe of the laſt ſeſſion of Congreſs, recommending to the houſe of repreſentatives to vote the neceſſary ſums for carrying into execution the commercial treaty with England: and that ſpeech is, by the men of his party from one end of the continent to the other, extolled as a piece of eloquence which Demoſthenes or Cicero would have found it difficult to equal. Now the diſcourſe in queſtion, which the feeble health of the ſpeaker did not allow

him

him to extend to ſuch length as would have been neceſſary for the diſcuſſion of the principles and their application to the ſubject in debate, is addreſſed rather to the paſſions than to the underſtanding. At the moment when it was pronounced, that was perhaps the beſt direction that it could poſſibly take, eſpecially as coming from the mouth of Mr. Ames, an eſteemed and eſtimable man, who, labouring as he then did under indiſpoſition, ſeemed to endanger his health in ſupport of what his party termed the ſalvation of the commonwealth, and derived an additional degree of intereſt from the very circumſtance of that indiſpoſition. Thoſe people, therefore, who would have wiſhed to find in that diſcourſe greater depth and ſolidity, and even a greater portion of reaſoning, cannot deny him the merit—which is no inconſiderable one—of having well underſtood the temper of men's minds, together with the influence of exiſting circumſtances, and taken a dextrous advantage of both. This is, no doubt, a very material part of the art of oratory, though it is the moſt deluſive.

That affair of the treaty is now at end.

The Britiſh and American commiſſioners have met for the purpoſe of carrying it into execution: but it is now hardly any longer the topic of converſation. The partiſans of the treaty, however, affect to extol the ſtrict punctuality with which the Engliſh have given up the poſts; as if that evacuation of poſts, which was an article of the treaty of 1783, and renewed in this latter treaty as a fundamental article and independent of every other, had been conſidered, even by its ſupporters, as a doubtful event; and as if England conferred an extraordinary honour on America in obſerving any one of her engagements to the latter. It is not uncommon for weak people lightly to impute to the more powerful certain motives of affection and regard: and this diſpoſition will not be miſtaken by any one for a refinement in gratitude, but will certainly be deemed a refinement in vanity.

That ſurrender of the poſts was no doubt a matter of importance to the United States. The poſſeſſion of them places the American navigation on the lakes beyond the control of Great Britain; it frees the country from the

the preſence of Engliſh troops, and leaves the Americans maſters of one or two great eſtabliſhments; but thoſe who have ſufficient prudence to ſee that peace is the greateſt bleſſing which America can deſire, cannot conſider the ſurrender of the poſts as wholly unattended with danger. When one is acquainted with the active diſpoſition of the Engliſh commandants—the ſpirit of reſentment too generally harboured by their nation againſt the United States of America—the opinion with which long and ſole poſſeſſion has inſpired the Engliſh that they had an excluſive right to the navigation of the lakes—and when, on the other hand, one is acquainted with the enterprizing ſpirit of the Americans in commerce, particularly in a new branch of commerce—their jealouſy, their indiſpoſition toward the Engliſh (I ſpeak of that claſs of men who are to dwell on the borders of theſe lakes, and of the officers and ſoldiers who are to garriſon the forts)—one cannot but apprehend that this vicinity, this continual claſhing of the intereſts of the two ſtates, will furniſh new ſubjects of diſpute in addition to thoſe

which ariſe in every country from the too near approximation of the troops of different powers. To guard againſt ſuch conſequences as may reaſonably be anticipated, would require ſuch prudence and conciliatory diſpoſitions in the commanding officers on both ſides, ſuch conſtant vigilance on the part of both governments, ſo eminent a ſpirit of juſtice and pacification, that one cannot venture to hope for ſo extraordinary a combination of fortunate circumſtances. But, whether hoſtilities break out between England and America in that or in any other quarter, it is at all events more than probable that a war will be the reſult of that treaty at ſome future period, more or leſs diſtant, according as England ſhall feel more or leſs confidence in her own ſtrength.

I find the minds of the people here changed in favour of France. Succeſs has ever great influence on popular opinion, and for more than one reaſon. But let us quit politics, a ſubject to which I am frequently induced to return by that unvarying regard for the intereſts of France, which purſues me as it were in ſpite of me. May that nation be

as

as happy and well-regulated as it is great! may it make a prudent and moderate uſe of its immenſe and aſtoniſhing ſucceſſes! may good laws, genuine public ſpirit, and a ſincere abjuration of party animoſities, cement its conſtitution, reſtore induſtry within its boundaries, and kindle in every boſom the love of liberty! Theſe are the moſt deſirable of its conqueſts.

HISTORY, CONSTITUTION, LAWS, AND COMMERCE, OF THE STATE OF MASSACHUSETTS.

The foundation of the ſtate of Maſſachuſetts was the conſequence of religious perſecution. The Preſbyterians being perſecuted in England about the year 1608, a Mr. Robinſon, miniſter of one of their churches, went over to Holland—to Amſterdam in the firſt inſtance, afterward to Leiden—to enjoy the liberty of profeſſing the religion of his ſect. Several families followed him thither; but after a reſidence of ſix years in that country, being diſſatisfied with the manners of the inhabitants, and abandoned by

by their children who engaged as ſoldiers or ſailors in the Dutch ſervice—at the ſame time receiving from navigators an advantageous deſcription of the coaſts of North-America — thoſe emigrants determined to ſeek in the weſtern world an aſylum were they might reſt ſecure from all perſecution. After fruitleſs endeavours to obtain grants of land from the Virginia company, who, by patent from the king of England, were proprietors of almoſt the entire coaſt of North-America — and after equally unſucceſsful applications to king James the Firſt to give his conſent to their intended ſettlement—they would have been at length compelled to relinquiſh their project, if Mr. Werton, a rich London merchant, had not facilitated to them the means of carrying it into execution, by forming a company for the purpoſe.

It was in July 1620 that the little colony embarked at Southampton in England. Untoward accidents reduced to a ſingle veſſel the armament which was to have conſiſted of two: and the emigrants, inſtead of reaching the vicinity of Hudſon's-River according

to

to their original plan, were driven to Cape-Cod-Harbour, where they landed firſt on one of the iſlands near the cape, and afterward on the continent, at the place to which they gave the name of Plymouth.

This firſt expedition inſpired numerous other mal-contents in England with a wiſh to emigrate to America. Accordingly, in 1622, another colony paſſed over, and ſettled at the place now called Hingham. In 1624 a third, under the conduct of Captain Wollaſton, eſtabliſhed themſelves at Braintree. Among the names of theſe firſt ſettlers is found that of Thomas Adams, anceſtor of the preſent Vice-Preſident of the United States, who ſtill poſſeſſes the ſame lands which were at that time granted to his family. In 1624, a fourth ſettlement was formed at Cape-Ann. Finally, in 1629, a numerous colony came to Salem, under the conduct of John Winthrop. Courage ſeldom forſakes thoſe who flee from perſecution: and its aid was highly neceſſary to theſe firſt ſettlers, to enable them to endure the privations and difficulties and obſtacles

of

of every kind, which they had to encounter. They overcame them all.

But ſoon theſe new-comers, who had themſelves been the objects of perſecution, became perſecutors in turn. The Indians had given them a friendly reception, had aided them with their means, had voluntarily granted them lands. The coloniſts were not content with this: the newly-arrived white man fancied himſelf entitled to the ſuperiority of a maſter over the native Indian: and oppreſſion ſoon began to be exerciſed by the European ſettlers.

The Indians, naturally kind, are alſo naturally vindictive. Repriſals were made on their part: and in Maſſachuſetts, as in the iſlands of the gulf of Florida, the white people, defending in a body the crimes of ſome individuals of their number, ſaw themſelves involved in open war with their benefactors, drove them to as great a diſtance as they could, and thus commenced that ſeries of encroachments which has never ſince been diſcontinued, and of which it is impoſſible to foreſee the end.

Their

Their quarrels with the Indians were not the only diſputes that diſturbed the peace of theſe infant colonies. Driven, as they had been, from England by the ſpirit of intolerance and religious perſecution, they ſuffered the ſame ſpirit of intolerance and religious perſecution to grow up among themſelves. Liberty of conſcience was the fundamental condition of the new ſettlements: but the Preſbyterians, finding themſelves more numerous than the other ſects, violated that principle; thereby proving to the world, that, like many others before and ſince their time, they wiſhed to reſerve the liberty entirely to themſelves—and that, although they were enemies to all power which oppreſſed them, they were not equally averſe to that which enabled them to exerciſe oppreſſion over others. The Quakers and Anabaptiſts were perſecuted, impriſoned, baniſhed, put to death. Some members of the community were found to profeſs the tenets of the church of England: they alſo were perſecuted. A ſchiſm took place among the Preſbyterians, and gave birth to violent quarrels.

The

The events which diſgraced the early period of theſe colonies furniſh an additional proof of that inconteſtable axiom in politics, that—although a religion be neceſſary in every government, not only for the internal comfort of the individuals, but alſo the more ſtrongly to attach them to their duty as citizens—the worſt of all governments is that in which a ſyſtem of religion is the main ſpring, and which is either conducted or influenced by the miniſters of that religion.

The hiſtory of Maſſachuſetts alſo preſents multiplied inſtances of that barbarous ignorance, which, united with the ſame ſuperſtitious notions, has in every part of Europe, and particularly in England, put to death ſo many pretended ſorcerers, men, women, and children. Hutchinſon relates, that in 1692, the governor and judges of Salem, being highly exaſperated againſt ſorcerers, and finding no law againſt them in their new code, but wiſhing to have their diſpoſition to ſeverity ſanctioned by the opinion of the prieſthood, applied to the principal miniſters of Boſton for their advice reſpecting the ſteps to be

be taken in thoſe caſes. He adds that the miniſters concluded their tedious and diffuſe anſwer by the following ſentence — "We cannot but recommend to the government to adopt the moſt ſummary and vigorous modes of proceeding, and ſuch as have been found the moſt efficacious, purſuant to the directions found in the laws of God, and in the wholeſome ſtatutes of the Engliſh nation, for the abolition of witchcraft."

The new colonies, thus retarded in their growth by thoſe religious perſecutions which kept at a diſtance or drove from among them often the moſt active and uſeful citizens, had moreover ſome wars to ſuſtain againſt the little French colonies to the north of Penobſcot. At length, the Indians being driven to Canada, king William the Third incorporated by charter, under the name of the Province of the Colonies or Maſſachuſetts, all the countries extending from Acadia and Nova-Scotia to the ſpot now occupied by New-Bedford, including the iſle of Nantucket and all other iſlands within ten leagues of the coaſt. By this patent the king reſerved to himſelf the nomination of the governor,

governor, deputy-governor, and ſecretary. The general aſſembly, which was authorized to frame laws provided they were not contrary to thoſe of England, was compoſed of the governor, the council, and the repreſentatives, whoſe number could not exceed two for each town or village, and who were required to poſſeſs an annual income of twenty ſhillings, or perſonal property to the amount of fifty pounds ſterling. The general aſſembly was empowered to elect twenty counſellors, viz. ten for the province of Maſſachuſetts, ſix for that of Plymouth, three for that of Maine, one for Sagadahock, and two at its own option. The governor had a negative over their proceedings. The general aſſembly nominated the judges in civil and criminal cauſes; ſuch of the former as exceeded the ſum of three hundred pounds ſterling were removable by appeal to England. All trees meaſuring above twenty-four inches in diameter, which were growing on the lands yet unſold, were to be reſerved for the uſe of the royal navy, and all gold and ſilver mines for the treaſury. Such nearly was the ſyſtem of government given to the ſtate

of

of Maſſachuſetts by William III. and which continued till the revolution.

The new conſtitution of Maſſachuſetts was framed in 1780. The government, under the name of Commonwealth or Republic of Maſſachuſetts, exhibits the ſame general diſtribution that prevails in the other ſtates. The ſenate is compoſed of thirty-one members elected for twelve months by the freeholders. The ſtate is divided, for the election of ſenators, into diſtricts, each of which, in proportion to the quota it pays of the general contribution, elects a greater or leſſer number of members, but can in no caſe nominate more than ſix. With a view to this limitation, the legiſlature has a power to change the boundaries of the diſtricts, and to increaſe their number, in proportion as any conſiderable augmentation may have taken place in the property of their inhabitants. The diſtricts muſt never be fewer than thirteen.—Excluſive of the thirty-one ſenators who ſit in the houſe, there are nine others ſelected by the ſenate itſelf to conſtitute the governor's council; wherefore the election of ſenators in the diſtricts muſt furniſh

niſh forty members. A new election is held every year, on the firſt of Auguſt.

The qualifications requiſite for a ſenator are—to poſſeſs, within the ſtate, an eſtate of at leaſt three hundred pounds' * value, or perſonal property to the amount of not leſs than ſix hundred—to have been an inhabitant of the ſtate during five years previous to the election—and to be an actual reſident in the diſtrict for which he is choſen. The Select-Men of each town (a kind of municipal magiſtrates, of whom I ſhall elſewhere have occaſion to ſpeak) preſide at theſe elections, count the votes, which are given in writing, and ſend them to the ſecretary of ſtate, who with the governor and five counſellors examine them, and convoke the ſenators elect for the day of their meeting.

The houſe of repreſentatives conſiſts of one member from each town or townſhip containing a hundred and fifty inhabitants who pay taxes—of two for three hundred—three

* The dollar in New-England paſſes for ſix ſhillings; conſequently the pound is equivalent to three dollars and one third.

for

for ſix hundred—and thus in the progreſſion of an additional member for each ſurplus of two hundred and twenty-five taxable inhabitants. The conditions required to qualify for a ſeat in the houſe of repreſentatives are—that the candidate have lived in the townſhip for one year immediately preceding the time of election, and that he poſſeſs an eſtate of a hundred pounds' value, or property of another deſcription to the amount of two hundred.

The governor is annually elected in the beginning of April, in the ſame manner as the ſenators. The votes are ſent by the Select-Men to the ſheriff of the county, and by him forwarded to the two branches of the legiſlature in conjunction, who declare as governor the candidate who has the majority of votes. If none of the candidates has a majority, the houſe of repreſentatives chooſe two by ballot from the four who have the greateſt numbers; and the ſenate, in the ſame mode, elect one of the two voted by the repreſentatives. The qualifications for governor and deputy-governor are the ſame, viz. a reſidence of at leaſt ſeven years in the ſtate, and property to the amount of

four thouſand pounds, or thirteen thouſand three hundred and thirty-three dollars.

An indiſpenſable qualification for all public functions in the ſtate of Maſſachuſetts is the profeſſion of the Chriſtian religion.

The nine members who compoſe the governor's council are choſen from among the ſenators by the joint votes of both houſes given by ballot.

The ſecretary of ſtate, the treaſurer, the receiver-general, the commiſſary-general, the public notaries, and the officers of the port, are annually choſen by the two houſes in conjunction. The treaſurer and the receiver-general cannot be continued in office above five years.

The qualifications for an elector are confined to reſidence in the ſtate, and an income of ten dollars, or a real property of the value of two hundred.

The governor is commander in chief of the ſea and land forces: and the conſtitution arms him with ſufficient authority in caſe of hoſtile attack or domeſtic diſturbance. He nominates all the officers of juſtice, the attorney-general of the ſtate, all

all the ſheriffs, and coroners: and he can, with the advice of his council, pardon a condemned criminal, except in caſes of impeachment or treaſon.

His refuſal (accompanied by his reaſons for refuſing) to ſanction a law paſſed by the two houſes, renders it neceſſary to re-conſider ſuch law, which, to do away this kind of ſuſpenſive negative, muſt now be ſupported by a majority of two thirds in each houſe.

The officers of militia are elected either by the privates or by the officers, according to the importance of their grade.

All the powers of the officers of juſtice, of what kind ſoever, are confined in duration to ſeven years.

This conſtitution is preceded by a long declaration of rights, which diſcovers neither that preciſion nor that generality of principles which ſeem to be required in an act of this nature. It ſpeaks, for inſtance, of the right poſſeſſed by the people of the republic to lay taxes for the ſupport of public worſhip and ſchools, to inſpect thoſe ſchools, &c. particulars very proper indeed to be inſerted in a law, but which cannot be thruſt into a

declaration of rights except by clerical influence.

By virtue of this article, every citizen of the ſtate of Maſſachuſetts is ſubject to the payment of a tax for the ſupport of a religion of ſome kind. He is perfectly unreſtrained in his choice: but when the number of thoſe in a townſhip who wiſh to practiſe the ſame religion is not ſufficient for the maintenance of a miniſter of their ſect, or there is no worſhip of the ſame kind in the neighbouring townſhips, the tax is nevertheleſs demanded: the inhabitant, however, has the liberty of chooſing to which of the religions followed in his neighbourhood he will prefer that his payment be applied. This tax is generally very moderate. It is regulated on the ſame principles as all thoſe payable to the ſtate. In the great towns it is commonly not demanded; and the income of the clergy in thoſe places ariſes chiefly from the letting of the ſeats in the churches. No perſon is compelled to hire a ſeat: but the ſpirit of devotion which is pretty general through the ſtate, a reſpect for religion, and a deference to the law which makes it a point of the conſtitution,

ſtitution, diſpoſes each perſon to hire them: and no ſooner is a pew reſigned by one family, than it is engaged by another.

The nomination of the electors who are to chooſe the preſident and vice-preſident of the United States is made in Maſſachuſetts by the ſame electors who nominate the repreſentatives to ſit in congreſs; and each diſtrict furniſhes one. The two, who are to be named in addition, to complete the number of ſixteen, which conſtitutes the repreſentation of the ſtate in Congreſs (viz. fourteen repreſentatives and two ſenators), are nominated by the legiſlature.

The Select-Men of each townſhip preſide at theſe elections, as at all others. Theſe are men choſen by each townſhip, to conduct its public buſineſs. They have the management of the property of the townſhip when it poſſeſſes any: they are overſeers of the poor, of the ſchools, of the roads: they ſummon meetings of the inhabitants when they think them neceſſary. They receive no ſalary except for the days when they are employed abroad in tranſacting the affairs of the townſhip; and then the re-

muneration is a dollar and half per day. They are elected only for one year, but are often continued during life. The choice for Select-Men generally falls on perſons of the beſt reputation, and beſt qualified for the management of buſineſs; and the office confers on its poſſeſſor a conſiderable ſhare of reſpectability and influence. This kind of patriarchal magiſtracy, which is common to all New-England, was eſtabliſhed by the firſt coloniſts who arrived from Old England, and has been ſince continued in uninterrupted ſucceſſion.

EXPORTS, IMPORTS, AND NAVIGATION, OF THE PORT OF BOSTON.

In ſpeaking laſt year of the tonnage of the port of Boſton, I omitted, for want of ſufficient information, to ſtate the amount of the exports. In the year 1791, they amounted to one million one hundred and fifty-nine thouſand and four dollars—in 1792, to one million three hundred and fifty-five thouſand and thirty-eight—in 1793, to one million eight hundred and thirty-four thouſand five hundred

hundred and forty—in 1794, to two millions five hundred and thirty-four thouſand two hundred and three—in 1795, to four millions two hundred and fifty-five thouſand ſix hundred and eighty-eight—and, for the firſt quarter of the preſent year 1796, to one million two hundred and twenty-ſix thouſand ſix hundred and twenty-five. The increaſe in the value of the exports is leſs attributable at Boſton than elſewhere to the riſe in the price of produce: for, if we except ſalt fiſh, which Boſton exports in abundance, and of which the price has conſiderably increaſed within the laſt three years, no riſe has taken place on the produce of the country, ſuch as beef, ſalt pork, pot-aſh, timber; and the commodities from the Weſt-Indies, which the trade of Boſton re-exports in large quantities, have riſen very little within the laſt three or four years.

With reſpect to the flour which the Boſton veſſels export, very little of it is furniſhed by Boſton itſelf; it is derived from the ſouthern ſtates: and whatever quantity of it is brought to Boſton for re-exportation, is never taken except to complete the aſſortment of a cargo,

cargo, and conſequently is not very conſiderable.

The duties on imports paid at the port of Boſton were, in 1793, ſix hundred and ninety-ſix thouſand nine hundred and forty dollars—in 1794, one million five thouſand four hundred and ſeven—in 1795, one million four hundred and eighty thouſand ſix hundred and five—and, in the firſt two quarters of 1796, ſeven hundred and eighty-ſeven thouſand ſix hundred and forty-eight. The facility with which theſe general ſtatements are procured from the cuſtom-houſe books induced me to copy them here, although I am aware that no concluſion can be drawn from them reſpecting the importations of the different articles, ſince each is ſubject to its own particular duty, ſome paying five per cent, others ten, fifteen, &c.—and that the draw-backs are not deducted from theſe ſums total of the receipts.

I have learned alſo, that, in 1749, the number of veſſels that made their entry in the port was four hundred and eighty-nine: in 1773, it was five hundred and ſeventeen; in 1793, the number of thoſe from foreign parts

parts alone amounted to four hundred and four, of which forty were three-maſted veſſels—in 1794, to four hundred and ſixty-four, of which ſeventy-eight were three-maſted—and in 1795, to eight hundred and twenty-five, of which ninety-ſix were three-maſted. Six hundred and ſeven veſſels, of which ſeventy-five were three-maſted, ſailed from this port during the ſame year 1795, on the foreign trade alone.

The produce of a part of Connecticut, of New-Hampſhire, of Vermont, ſupplies the trade of Boſton, together with the exchange of the European articles neceſſary to thoſe countries. Theſe advantages are in a greater or a leſſer degree participated by the other ſea-ports of the ſtate of Maſſachuſetts. No other part of the Union can produce a ſet of men ſo active, ſo induſtrious, ſo enterprizing in navigation, as the people of this ſtate. During my ſtay at Boſton, two veſſels, a ſhip and a large brig, ſailed for Nootka-Sound and China, and two others are preparing to ſail on a ſimilar voyage.

BANKS.

BANKS.

There are at preſent in this ſtate three banks at Boſton, one at Salem, and one at Newbury-Port. Theſe banks, eſtabliſhed on the ſame principles as every other in America, are all, except that at Salem, incorporated by acts of the legiſlature. They diſcount notes endorſed with two good names, at one half per cent per month. The facility ſhown in this particular by the directors of thoſe banks has great influence on the commercial tranſactions carried on in the ſtate.

The bank of Maſſachuſetts has exiſted at Boſton ſince the year 1784. Its charter preſcribes no limited term for its duration. Eight hundred ſhares, at five hundred dollars each, conſtitute for it a capital of four hundred thouſand dollars, which has greatly increaſed ſince its firſt eſtabliſhment. The dividends on thoſe ſhares are from eight to nine per cent, and the price of its ſtock is only one fifth more than the original value.

The bank of the United States has a branch

at

at Boſton, eſtabliſhed in 1792. The public is unacquainted with its capital, which is regulated at diſcretion by the bank eſtabliſhed in Philadelphia: but it is thought to be five hundred thouſand dollars. As it is a dependency of the bank of the United States, it might receive aſſiſtance from that quarter in caſe of need. It yields the ſame dividends as the bank of Maſſachuſetts; and the price of its ſhares, which, as in all the other branches, was originally four hundred dollars, is now five hundred.

The bank known by the name of the Union Bank is the third of thoſe eſtabliſhed in Boſton. It was erected in 1793, and its charter is for ten years. A hundred thouſand ſhares, at eight dollars each, form for it a capital of eight hundred thouſand dollars. It alſo yields a dividend of eight or nine per cent, and the price of its ſhares has riſen to nine dollars and half. This bank is bound to accommodate the ſtate with a loan of a hundred thouſand dollars at five per cent, whenever called upon for that purpoſe: but its loans are never to exceed that ſum.

The bank of Salem, which bears the appellation

pellation of the Eſſex Bank, not being incorporated, the amount of its capital is a ſecret: but it is known to be in a flouriſhing ſtate.

The banks of Nantucket and of Merrimack, or of Newbury-Port, incorporated in 1795, are eſtabliſhed for the private convenience of the trade of thoſe places. The capital of the former is forty thouſand dollars —that of the latter, ſeventy-five thouſand. They do not yet yield any dividend. The price of their ſtock has not varied: the ſhares are a hundred dollars each.

An examination of this ſketch of the ſtate of the banks in Maſſachuſetts diſcovers a capital of above two millions of dollars among them all: and, as the intereſt on diſcounts is ſix per cent, and the dividends only eight or nine, the reſult muſt be a circulation of caſh or credit to the amount of at leaſt three millions of dollars, which extends to the neighbouring ſtates in a proportion depending on their trade, and which it is difficult to aſcertain, but which is eſtimated at between ſix and ſeven hundred thouſand dollars.

Several

Several other banks are about to be eſtabliſhed in this ſtate, where the avidity and enterprizing ſpirit of commercial men, and the general eagerneſs to embark in trade, make people overlook the danger of being driven by the exceſſive number of ſuch inſtitutions to an extenſion of commerce diſproportioned to the capitals employed.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

One of the moſt remarkable laws of the ſtate of Maſſachuſetts is that which ordains the eſtabliſhment of ſchools for gratuitous inſtruction. It was enacted in June 1789. I ſlightly mentioned it in my journal of laſt year: but it deſerves to be more particularly noticed in detail. Its principal articles are as follow—

1°. Each town or townſhip containing fifty families or houſes is bound to provide a ſchool-maſter of good character to inſtruct the children in the Engliſh language, reading, writing, arithmetic, orthography, and the principles of good moral conduct. This ſchool is to be open ſix months in the year.

The

The towns or townſhips of a hundred families are to have ſchools of the ſame kind, which are to be open during the whole year.

Thoſe of a hundred and fifty families are to have two ſchools, one for twelve months and one for ſix.

Thoſe of two hundred families or more are bound, in addition to theſe ſchools, to ſupport one, under the name of a grammar-ſchool, in which the Greek, Latin, and Engliſh languages are to be taught grammatically. Children who cannot read are not to be ſent to the grammar-ſchool.—The houſes being often widely ſcattered over the country, the inhabitants of the towns, in public aſſembly, have the power of determining the bounds of the ſchool-diſtricts.

2°. An injunction is laid on the inſtructors of youth, from thoſe in the univerſity at Cambridge down to thoſe in the loweſt ſchools, to impreſs the minds of their pupils with "the principles of piety, juſtice, ſincerity, love of their country, frugality, induſtry, attachment to the federal conſtitution and that of the ſtate," &c. The miniſters of religion and the Select-Men are bound to do every thing

thing in their power to induce the children to attend the ſchools.

3°. No applicant for the office of teacher in the grammar-ſchools can be admitted to enter his name on the liſt of candidates, unleſs provided with a certificate ſigned by two clergymen atteſting that he is capable of teaching the Greek and Latin, and that he is a man of good morals. This latter part of the certificate may be given by the Select-Men.

The maſters of the firſt-mentioned ſchools cannot be choſen without producing a certificate from the Select-Men, or from the committee appointed for the inſpection of the ſchools, or from a clergyman.

Whoever ſhould keep a ſchool without complying with theſe conditions, would be condemned to pay a fine of twenty pounds, or ſixty-ſix dollars and two-thirds—one half for the benefit of the ſchool, the other to be given to the poor.

4°. The ſchools are to be ſupported by a rate levied on the inhabitants of the diſtricts where they are eſtabliſhed. Theſe rates are

impoſed by the annual town-meetings on the taxable property within their territory.

5°. Such towns as ſhould neglect to ſupport ſchools in conformity to the conditions preſcribed by the firſt articles of this law, would be ſubjected to the following fines, viz. thoſe of fifty families would be condemned to pay thirty-three dollars—thoſe of a hundred families, ſixty-ſix dollars—thoſe of a hundred and fifty families, a hundred dollars. Theſe fines are ordered by the ſupreme court of the ſtate, or by the general court, on complaint laid before them. They are to be paid into the ſtate-treaſury, to be applied to the relief of thoſe ſchools in the ſame county which may ſtand in need of ſuch aid. The grand juries are to enforce the payment.

This law is tolerably well executed, and the maſters are in general qualified to give the inſtruction expected of them. In ſome townſhips, however, ſymptoms of negligence are diſcoverable; inſtead of maſters, indifferent miſtreſſes are employed; in ſome places, maſters wholly unqualified; in others, none

none at all: but theſe inſtances are rare. The fault lies with the Select-Men, who do not exert themſelves to enforce the law; to which moreover every inhabitant has a right to appeal. The ſalaries of the maſters in the lower ſchools are from twelve to eighteen dollars per month: in the grammar-ſchools, the teachers receive from twenty-five to thirty-five.

It is painful to obſerve that in none of theſe ſchools is the hiſtory of the late revolution taught; that the youth are not informed either of its cauſes, or of the important events which have been its conſequences; that they are not made acquainted with the names of thoſe who, by their counſels, their ſervices, their blood, have, in the midſt of ſo many dangers and eſpecially ſo many obſtacles, erected or ſupported that independence which the country now enjoys. This, nevertheleſs, would be the moſt effectual mode of perpetuating in the breaſts of the riſing generation the love of liberty, which, among a free people and particularly a people recently become free, is the grand baſis of public, and one of the principal baſes

of private, morality. But the love of liberty is feebly felt in the towns: and it is the inhabitants of the towns, or thoſe whoſe chief concerns are centred in the towns, who compoſe the legiſlatures, hold all the public offices, and have a general influence over the government. The love of gain is the paſſion which predominates over every other; it prevents the mind from indulging in more liberal conceptions: and if any man were to ſuggeſt to them the idea of a courſe of inſtruction ſo beneficial to the cauſe of liberty, their calculations would no doubt impel them to reject it: for that kind of inſtruction would, by the remembrance which it would preſerve of paſt events, ſtill tend to foſter in the minds of the Americans an unfavourable diſpoſition toward England; and it is from England chiefly that thoſe gentlemen expect the means of making their fortunes.

The ſame ſpirit of apathy for liberty and of propenſity to England procraſtinates the erection of the intended monuments in the different places where the arms of America gained important advantages over thoſe of Britain. Nevertheleſs the bulk of the nation,

tion, all thoſe who are not inhabitants of the towns, are proud, and even jealous, of their liberty. I ſhall in another place have occaſion to ſpeak with greater particularity of this ſtate of things, and of its conſequences.

ABOLITION OF SLAVERY.

There are no ſlaves in the commonwealth of Maſſachuſetts; and this is the only ſtate in the Union that is entirely exempt from the diſgrace of ſlavery. It is not unintereſting to give the particulars of the manner in which it was aboliſhed.

No antecedent law of New-England had poſitively aſſerted the exiſtence of ſlavery, which nevertheleſs prevailed under the ſanction of cuſtom and public opinion. Several laws indeed ſeemed to preſuppoſe it, inaſmuch as they authorized the reclaiming of negroes who quitted their maſters, enjoined the neceſſity of reſtoring them, and prohibited the intermarriage of blacks with free people. Still however no law had expreſsly enacted the eſtabliſhment of ſlavery: and ſeveral cauſes between maſters and ne-

groes on ſubjects relating to ſlavery had been decided in favour of the latter.

The new conſtitution of Maſſachuſetts, like thoſe of all the other ſtates, declared an equality of rights for all men. In 1781, ſome negroes, prompted by private ſuggeſtion, maintained that they were not ſlaves: they found advocates, among whom was Mr. Sedgwick, now a member of the ſenate of the United States; and the cauſe was carried before the ſupreme court. Their counſel pleaded, 1°. That no antecedent law had eſtabliſhed ſlavery, and that the laws which ſeemed to ſuppoſe it were the offspring of error in the legiſlators, who had no authority to enact them:—2°. That ſuch laws, even if they had exiſted, were annulled by the new conſtitution.

They gained the cauſe under both aſpects: and the ſolution of this firſt queſtion that was brought forward ſet the negroes entirely at liberty, and at the ſame time precluded their pretended owners from all claim to indemnification, ſince they were proved to have poſſeſſed and held them in ſlavery without any right. As there were only few ſlaves in Maſſachuſetts,

Maſſachuſetts, the deciſion paſſed without oppoſition, and baniſhed all further idea of ſlavery.

Under ſimilar laws and in ſimilar circumſtances, different deciſions were given in Connecticut, Rhode-Iſland, and even New-Hampſhire. But the proſperity and tranquillity of Maſſachuſetts, which has experienced no diſagreeable conſequences from that general liberty, will, to the eyes of every rational and benevolent obſerver, afford ſufficient ground for condemnation of the other ſtates of New-England who have not imitated ſo glorious an example.

It is to be obſerved, that, in 1778, the general cenſus of Maſſachuſetts included eighteen thouſand ſlaves, whereas the ſubſequent cenſus of 1790 exhibits only ſix thouſand blacks. It appears from the moſt minute information that I have been able to acquire, that a great proportion of the emancipated negroes went to the towns, where, making an indiſcreet uſe of their newly-acquired liberty, many of them addicted themſelves to the intemperate uſe of ſpirituous liquors, and died in conſequence;

others engaged as ſailors, even on board foreign ſhips. The generality of thoſe who have not diſappeared are ſervants: ſome are tradeſmen, or even farmers; and a pretty large number, if we conſider the bad education of that claſs of men and the habits of ſlavery, live in the enjoyment of a comfortable independence. The individuals of their colour have not fallen under the laſh of juſtice in any greater proportion than the whites.

From theſe well-authenticated facts reſults a convincing proof that the negroes, as well as the white men, are capable of living honeſt and free; but that thoſe nations which are ſo unfortunate as to poſſeſs great numbers of ſlaves, ought, by ſome previous education, to prepare them for, and furniſh them with the means of making an advantageous uſe of, their liberty.

Slaves from other ſtates, taking ſhelter in Maſſachuſetts, may be reclaimed. But the general ſenſe of the people is ſo decidedly adverſe to ſlavery, that it would be very rare if thoſe fugitive ſlaves did not find means to eſcape from their owners' purſuit.

PUBLIC

PUBLIC DEBT.

That part of the debt of the ſtate of Maſſachuſetts for which the Union did not undertake to be reſponſible amounted to two millions ſix hundred and ninety-eight thouſand two hundred and eighty dollars. In 1794 the legiſlature ordered a loan in which every kind of paper iſſued by the ſtate was receivable. They conſolidated the debts due for the pay of the troops during the war and for the purchaſe of proviſions, by notes bearing an intereſt of five per cent: they increaſed the taxes to pay the intereſt of this conſolidated debt, and provided that the ſums due for ſtate lands already ſold, as well as the moneys ariſing from future ſales, ſhould be appropriated to the payment of the capital.

The preſent debt of the ſtate is two millions three hundred and fifty thouſand dollars, which, at five per cent, pay a yearly intereſt of a hundred and ſeventeen thouſand five hundred dollars. The annual expences of government amount to one hundred and twenty thouſand dollars. To meet theſe demands,

demands, the government has an intereſt of thirty thouſand dollars accruing from moneys depoſited in the bank of the United States, and fifty-ſeven thouſand five hundred and eighteen dollars paid by the treaſurer of the Union as intereſt on the debt of the United States. To theſe ſums it adds a hundred and forty-nine thouſand ſix hundred and twenty-two dollars ariſing from taxes.

The produce of the ſales of land belonging to the ſtate is lodged in the hands of commiſſioners, to be applied to the extinction of the ſtate debt, of which three hundred thouſand dollars have already been redeemed in that manner.—The town and county taxes riſe much more rapidly than thoſe impoſed by the ſtate.

PUBLIC REVENUES.

The ſtate-taxes bear upon every kind of property, even upon uncultivated lands. A new valuation of property is to take place every ten years. With this view, the aſſeſſors of the different townſhips annually ſend to the ſecretary of ſtate a ſchedule of all territorial

torial property, with all the details neceſſary to ſhew of what nature it is, and in what ſtate of cultivation: 2dly, a ſtatement of all the kinds of property, houſes, ſums embarked in commerce, ſums depoſited in the banks, even ready money, and furniture of every kind: 3dly, a liſt of all the inhabitants above the age of ſixteen years.

This information reſpecting the different ſpecies of property has for its object the procurement of as exact a knowledge as poſſible of the wealth and income of the entire ſtate, and a clue to ſerve as a guide in apportioning the taxes among the different counties and townſhips. Proprietors refuſing to deliver in a written liſt of their taxable property are ſubject to an arbitrary valuation by the aſſeſſors. The laſt general valuation, made in 1792, exhibited a maſs of taxable property to the amount of nine hundred and thirty-ſeven thouſand ſix hundred and ninety-eight pounds, Maſſachuſetts currency, or three millions one hundred and twenty-five thouſand ſix hundred and ſixty dollars. In this valuation all ſpecies of property are rated at ſix per cent on their ſuppoſed real value, except uncultivated

uncultivated lands, which are only rated at two; and by it the taxes of the different townſhips are apportioned in the ratio of ſo much for every thouſand pounds, and the individual quotas are regulated in the ſame proportion.

In this apportionment is included the poll-tax, which is only a halfpenny for each perſon liable to the tax. The number of theſe was, in 1792, found to be a hundred and ſix thouſand one hundred and ſixty-ſeven. The ſtate-treaſurer ſends to the different towns a ſchedule of the ſums to be levied in each for the uſe of the ſtate; and the taxes, thus apportioned, are to be aſſeſſed on the individual inhabitants by aſſeſſors choſen in each town, or, in default of them, by the Select-Men. If the duty were not performed by either, the court of juſtices of the peace would appoint aſſeſſors who would aſſeſs on the town guilty of ſuch neglect an additional rate, from one hundred dollars to three hundred and thirty-three and two thirds. The aſſeſſors choſen by the towns receive four ſhillings per day, thoſe nominated by the juſtices, ten. The aſſeſſors charge the town-collectors with the levying

levying of theſe taxes; and the latter are bound, within a given term, to pay the amount into the hands of the town-treaſurer. If the taxes be not paid within the ſpace of five months, the ſtate-treaſurer ſends an order to the ſheriff to enforce payment by ſelling a ſufficient quantity of the property belonging to the town in arrear. Means are provided by the law to inſure the collection, and to puniſh neglect, of whatever kind or degree, either in the officers, or in the perſons failing to make payment. The general court of juſtices of the peace can give redreſs in caſes of over-charge. The collectors are nominated by the towns: in default of collectors, the taxes are levied by the conſtables, or, in default of conſtables, by the ſheriff. The towns agree with the collectors reſpecting the rate of commiſſion allowed to them for the levying of the taxes: it is five per cent when the tax is levied by the ſheriff or his deputies, excluſive of the incidental charges occaſioned by their abſence from home.

The balance drawn by the commiſſioners appointed to ſettle the accounts between the United

United States and the individual ſtates makes the ſtate of Maſſachuſetts creditor to the Union in the ſum of two millions two hundred and forty-eight thouſand eight hundred and one dollars.

The ſtate of Maſſachuſetts is divided into ſeventeen counties, and about three hundred and eighty towns or townſhips, ſubject to ſeparate taxation. The taxes, however, notwithſtanding all the regulations of which I have ſpoken, are not very punctually paid in Maſſachuſetts. Of a tax of one hundred and fifty thouſand dollars impoſed in June 1794, and which ought to have been paid into the treaſury on the firſt of April 1795, about fourteen thouſand were paid within the term preſcribed—four thouſand more within the enſuing three months—ſeventeen thouſand within the next three months—in three months more, nineteen thouſand—and twenty-two thouſand within the three following months, that is to ſay, twelve months after the time preſcribed: finally, the remainder, with the exception of three or four thouſand dollars, was paid within the next quarter after the lapſe of the firſt year.

POLICE

POLICE AND LAWS.

A law of the ſtate ordains that no inoculations ſhall take place except in the hoſpitals eſtabliſhed for that purpoſe. It preſcribes wiſe precautions in caſe the natural ſmall-pox ſhould break out in any diſtrict with a certain degree of violence: and although it be, in my opinion, better to encourage inoculation by allowing perfect freedom in that reſpect, no blame can attach to theſe precautions, which, however ſtrict, are very far from operating as the prohibitory ſyſtem of Virginia.

The laws againſt debtors are at once mild and energetic: they ſecure, as far as poſſible, the rights of the creditor.

The influence of the clergy procured in 1794 the enactment of a law prohibiting on ſundays every kind of amuſement, walking for pleaſure, travelling, fiſhing, under the penalty of a conſiderable fine. The preamble to this law is a complete piece of puritanical rant; and its various clauſes are in perfect uniſon with the preamble. Men of

ſenſe;

ſenſe, when ſpoken to reſpecting it, acknowledge its abſurdity, but aſſert that this new act, in ſuperſeding the former laws on the ſubject, has removed a great number of regulations ſtill more abſurd and ſevere, and that it is a neceſſary progreſſion to another that will ſoon be enacted, by which the prohibitions on ſundays will be confined to the opening of ſhops and public houſes.

The legiſlature meanwhile beſtows its attention on various improvements, roads, canals, uſeful eſtabliſhments. The majority of the members of that body are not very enlightened in the ſcience of adminiſtration —a deficiency which is common to them with all the legiſlatures of the Union, and which ought not to appear ſurprizing in a country yet ſo new: but they are commendable for the goodneſs of their intentions, their moral integrity, and their benevolence.

The legiſlative body of Maſſachuſetts has not, like the aſſemblies of ſeveral of the other ſtates, been accuſed of corruption in money-matters: ſome of its members, however, have not eſcaped ſuſpicion: and indeed the manner in which certain laws are carried

may

may well afford room for ſuch ſurmiſes. All the acts muſt be read three times in each houſe before they paſs : but the caſe is different with reſolutions, which require only a ſingle reading previous to their acquiring the force of laws. No article of the conſtitution, no poſterior act, has drawn the line of diſtinction between what ſhall be preſented as a law and what may be introduced under the form of a reſolution. Cuſtom indeed has eſtabliſhed the practice of bringing forward under the ſhape of laws whatever concerns taxation, public inſtitutions, &c. and making matters of inferior importance, ſuch as private demands and claims, the ſubjects of reſolutions.

But, as there exiſts no fixed rule in that reſpect, it often happens that objects of general intereſt, and materially important to the ſtate, are introduced in the ſhape of reſolutions : ſuch, for inſtance, was the ſale to Robert Morris of the right of pre-emption of a quantity of land in Maſſachuſetts at the rate of five pence per acre, and that of an enormous tract in the diſtrict of Maine to Mr. Bingham and ſeveral others, alſo at a

very low price. A member of either houſe can find no difficulty in preſenting ſuch a reſolution at the moment when he finds himſelf unreſtrained by the preſence of thoſe from whom he may apprehend oppoſition, and thus carrying it. It was under ſuch circumſtances as theſe that ſuſpicions aroſe againſt certain members who at the time were poſſeſſed of influence; but no proof has been diſcovered to confirm them.

It is aſtoniſhing that every thing, whether nearly or remotely, connected with finance is not invariably ſubjected to three readings. It is true, the governor's ſanction is required for reſolutions, as well as for laws that have undergone a longer diſcuſſion: but a prudent governor would not venture to paſs his negative on a reſolution of both houſes, unleſs he had convincing evidence of its being ſtrongly prejudicial to the intereſt of the ſtate.

In either houſe of the legiſlature there are few influential members; or it may even be ſaid that there are none, and that the influence of thoſe who poſſeſs a greater ſhare of it than the others is ſo temporary that not one of

of them is ſure of carrying a motion when he makes it. There are here, as elſewhere, preparatory committees and petty intrigues which are ſometimes ſucceſsful, but oftener otherwiſe.

The lawyers in Maſſachuſetts have greater influence than any other body of men on the public opinion; and next to them the prieſts: but none of them poſſeſs more than a moderate ſhare of it: nor is there to be found here, as in ſeveral other ſtates, any perſon who, by his own perſonal influence or that of his friends, is able to govern the public opinion, the deliberations, the elections. The intereſt, even of thoſe who ſtand higheſt in that reſpect, does not extend beyond their own diſtrict.

The anti-federal party, of which ſo much is ſaid, and which is branded with the moſt odious epithets that can be deviſed, does not exiſt in Maſſachuſetts, in the true ſenſe of the appellation, more than in any other part of the United States. This truth being once acknowledged as it ought to be, the anti-federaliſts muſt, in the eyes of every impartial obſerver, be reduced to a ſimple

oppoſition-party, which, however, will be equally far from pleaſing thoſe who cannot brook oppoſition of any kind.

The oppoſition-party here are labouring to prevent the government from acquiring additional ſtrength, becauſe they think the executive branch is already too ſtrong, and eſpecially that it aims at the extenſion of its prerogatives. They diſcourage the affection for England, and entertain more favourable diſpoſitions toward France: and, like every other party in the world, they act as a party; that is to ſay, they ſometimes exceed the bounds of reaſon and juſtice. I think, then, that the other party do not affect to talk ſo loudly of the oppoſition with any other view than that of acquiring for themſelves a greater number of partiſans and ſupporters; for they cannot ſeriouſly conſider the efforts of their opponents as an obſtacle to them in any meaſure of real utility. On both ſides are ſeen men of great virtue, men warmly attached to their country, and animated by a ſincere love of good order.

ROADS.

ROADS.

The roads in the ſtate of Maſſachuſetts are kept in repair at the expence of the townſhips through which they paſs.

From this regulation, which at firſt ſight appears ſo equitable, it reſults that in the leſs opulent townſhips the roads are in bad repair, and thus the expence incurred by thoſe which are more wealthy does not completely anſwer the intended purpoſe of facilitating the convenience of communication. This diſadvantage is ſometimes removed by grants from the legiſlature to particular townſhips for that object; ſometimes alſo by ſubſcriptions raiſed in the neighbouring townſhips with the ſame view. But theſe extraordinary aids are rare; and the invariable conſequence is that in the poorer townſhips the roads are in worſe condition.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE POOR.

The poor are alſo relieved by taxes on the townſhips, which, like thoſe for the roads,

are laid on by the county-ſeſſions, whenever the rates propoſed by the Select-Men do not meet the approbation of the townſhip—an event which ſeldom happens. But a pauper is not maintained at the public expence except when he has no relative in a direct line aſcending or deſcending, who is capable of ſupporting him. If he had any, and they refuſed to afford him a maintenance, they would be compelled to it by the ſeſſions. Caſes alſo occur, when, a relative in line direct not being in ſufficiently eaſy circumſtances, the Select-Men enter into an agreement with him that he ſhall pay at leaſt a part of the annual ſum neceſſary for the ſupport of his indigent kinſman. Agreements of this nature are made on an amicable footing, and on equitable terms: no perſon refuſes to accede to them: and if a refuſal were given, the ſeſſion would award the payment of a ſum probably more conſiderable than that demanded by the Select-Men; in addition to which, the family would alſo have to pay the coſts of ſuit. The Select-Men are bound to take care that poor travellers receive due aſſiſtance in caſe of ſickneſs.

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The ſtate re-imburſes to them the expences incurred on ſuch occaſions.

MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT.

Seventy-nine regiments of infantry, eleven of cavalry, and eight of artillery, compoſe the militia of the ſtate of Maſſachuſetts, and together form an aggregate of fifty-five thouſand men. Beyond the age of forty years a citizen is not ſubject to militia-duty; but, until ſixty, he is liable to be called upon in urgent caſes. Citizens of the latter deſcription conſtitute what is called the reſerved corps, which furniſhes an additional force of above twenty-five thouſand men.

GENERAL SPIRIT OF THE PEOPLE.

Although the greater number of the rich inhabitants of Boſton are merchants, that claſs is not here, as at Philadelphia, the predominating claſs; nor do they, as at Charleſton, hold the ſecond rank in ſociety. They are preciſely what they ought to be—they ſtand on a footing of equality with

their neighbours, and enjoy no ſuperiority over any other body of men.

Independent of the ordinary trade of the merchants of all countries, they indulge very much in ſpeculation; and ſpeculation is the favourite paſſion of the inhabitants of New-England, who generally feel a more active deſire than the people of the South to acquire large and rapid fortunes; whether that diſpoſition be, or not, the conſequence of their more enterprizing character.

But their ſpeculations are not always ſucceſsful: and at this moment conſiderable ſums are about to be loſt at Boſton by the ſale of the Yazzow lands in Georgia, which the late legiſlature of that ſtate have thought it their duty to annul. From the following circumſtances ſome idea may be formed of the extravagance with which the New-England ſpeculators, and particularly thoſe of Boſton, engaged in that buſineſs. The original price of thoſe lands, as I have before remarked, was about one cent, or a hundredth part of a dollar, per acre; and they have been ſold at Boſton ſo high as twelve, and I believe even higher. Two

or

or three agents of two of the four companies who had obtained thoſe lands from the ſtate came to Boſton with their title-deeds empowering them to ſell. They opened a kind of office, to which purchaſers flocked in ſuch crowds, that thoſe gentlemen, taking advantage of this inconceivable infatuation, raiſed the price each day, often twice in the day, for the purpoſe of more ſtrongly exciting the general eagerneſs and taking away all time for reflection. There were ſales and ſub-ſales without number: ſome of them were ſecured by a ſtipulation of reſponſibility on the part of the ſellers, who engaged to give poſſeſſion of the lands: but few of the numerous bargains were attended with this clauſe; almoſt all being concluded on the bare ſecurity of the titles, without any power of coming upon the venders. In many inſtances the purchaſes were made partly with ready money, and in all caſes with notes payable at different periods. Theſe notes were dextrouſly put into circulation by the venders; and the purchaſers now find themſelves diſappointed of the lands, while a great part of their notes are gone out

out of the poſſeſſion of thoſe to whom they had given them. Every claſs of men, even watch-makers, hair-dreſſers, and mechanics of all deſcriptions, eagerly ran after this deception; in which Boſton has ſunk above two millions of dollars. Some of the buyers declare that they will not releaſe their notes, and have even announced their intention in the public papers: but this is nothing more than a menace reſulting from anger and indignation. The notes have, in great part, paſſed into other hands: they have been received by perſons wholly unconnected with that ſpeculation, and who cannot be excluded from payment without a moſt glaring act of injuſtice which muſt materially impair the credit of thoſe who originally gave the notes. The courts of juſtice moreover would decide againſt them: and thus, after conſiderable trouble, they muſt at laſt make good the payments and be content to remain deſtitute of lands.

Many of the purchaſers, whoſe notes were not gone out of the hands of the venders, have compromiſed matters with them by diſcounting the notes at half their value, but in

ready

ready money, and retaining their claim to the lands ſo far as the ſellers can make it good: but this amounts to a nullity: for the original agreement will never be confirmed; it being a fraudulent tranſaction, and comprizing millions of acres that did not belong to the ſtate of Georgia which ſold them.

Thus many ſpeculators in Boſton and other parts of New-England have been either utterly ruined or at leaſt materially injured in their fortunes by that ſpeculation. If one could without regret behold the ruin of ſo many honeſt men who fell victims to their own credulity, one might enjoy this diſappointment of a ſet of ſpeculators who were ſufficiently greedy to purchaſe, without examination, without reflection, and with the ſole view of exorbitant gains in Europe, tracts of land at the diſtance of nine hundred miles from their home, while their own country preſented them with more honourable and eſpecially more ſimple means of acquiring a fortune, or increaſing that which they already poſſeſſed. But it is intolerably mortifying to ſee that the four land-companies of Georgia, who bear the entire guilt of the iniquitous

iniquitous bargain, are enriched by their villany; and that their perfidious dexterity in this train of corruption and deceit has thus thrown into their hands ſeveral millions of dollars, for which they neither have given nor are capable of giving any equivalent to thoſe of whoſe folly they have taken advantage.

EXPORTS.

In my journal of laſt year I noticed the value, for the laſt five years, of the exports from the different ports of Maſſachuſetts which I had viſited. To thoſe details I now add the total amount of the exports from the entire ſtate during the ſame period, including even that of the preſent year. In 1791, it was two millions five hundred and nineteen thouſand ſix hundred and forty dollars—in 1792, two millions eight hundred and eighty-eight thouſand one hundred and three—in 1793, three millions ſeven hundred and fifty-ſeven thouſand three hundred and fifty-five—in 1794, five millions two hundred and ninety-two thouſand two hundred and forty-

forty-four — in 1795, ſeven millions two hundred and eighteen thouſand nine hundred and eight — in 1796, nine millions nine hundred and forty-nine thouſand three hundred and forty-five.—In 1787, the value of the exports from the different ports of the ſtate amounted to no more than one million five hundred and eighty-eight thouſand ſeven hundred and ninety-three dollars.

AN ACCIDENT.

Previous to my departure from Boſton where contrary winds detained me a week longer than I had propoſed to ſtay, I eſcaped, in common with twelve hundred other perſons, from a danger to which it might have been expected that a great number of us would in all probability have fallen victims.

A Frenchman well ſkilled in horſemanſhip, who had a few weeks before arrived in the town, erected a circus for his exhibitions. The agility, the perfection, the gracefulneſs, with which he achieved on horſeback ſeveral feats that no man of his profeſſion had ever before attempted, together with the richneſs

and

and tafteful elegance of dreſs diſplayed by himſelf and his company, attracted to each performance a great number of ſpectators, although there was another exhibition of the ſame nature in the town. Upward of twelve hundred perſons were there aſſembled on Monday the fifth of September, when the roof—loaded with above a hundred boys, who, notwithſtanding ſuch prohibition and watchfulneſs as could be expected from the imperfect police of the town, had clambered up to enjoy the ſight through the chinks left between the boards—fell in ſuddenly at once in every part. As the boards which formed that pyramidal roof were faſtened to the ſmall roofs that covered the boxes by which the circus was ſurrounded, ſome of thoſe leſſer roofs were involved in its fall: but they fell ſucceſſively, and in ſuch manner as rather to cloſe the boxes on the inſide than to cruſh them. Not one of the number experienced the latter fate: not a ſingle ſpectator was hurt; and, thanks to the extraordinary calmneſs diſplayed by each individual during this alarming incident, there was not even any thronging on the ſtair-caſes by which the chief

chief part of the ſpectators retired: ſome let themſelves down into the area by ſliding along the fallen roofs; others deſcended from a window. A ſingle one of the boys who were on the roof ſtruck his head ſo violently againſt a plank in his fall that his life was for a long time in danger. At leaſt forty others, who fell from the ſame height with him, were not even hurt. It is impoſſible to conceive how ſo great an accident ſhould have been attended with no greater miſchief: it is one of thoſe ſingular events which might not again occur with all the ſame circumſtances during the courſe of many centuries, and in which a man is not ſorry to have been a party concerned, when he has ſo fortunately eſcaped from the danger.

SECOND VISIT TO THOMASTOWN.—FURTHER OBSERVATIONS ON THE DISTRICT OF MAINE.

I went by ſea from Boſton to Thomaſtown, for the ſecond time, on the twelfth of September.

The family of General Knox is one of thoſe

thoſe in America to which I am the moſt warmly attached. I therefore experienced a ſincere pleaſure on ſeeing myſelf once more among them; and the pleaſure ſeemed to be mutual. The general's ſettlement aſſumes conſiderable ſtability. A part of his uſeful projects begin to be realized; and the popularity which he derives from his pleaſing manner toward all thoſe who have any buſineſs to tranſact with him, as well as his gentle and frank mode of proceeding with the unlicenſed ſettlers on his lands, confirm all his proſpects of ſucceſs. He is buſily employed in clearing foreſts, making lime and bricks, erecting mills, building veſſels, improving his lands, and forming an excellent nurſery for cattle on Brigadier Iſland.

His friends blame him for expending large ſums of money: and perhaps it may be aſſerted with truth that his works coſt him more than, with greater regularity and watchfulneſs, they ought to coſt him. But he cannot himſelf beſtow that watchful attention with the neceſſary aſſiduity; he undertakes too many things at once, to be able each

each day to inſpect them all with ſufficient care. Truſty agents, who are rare in every country, are more rarely to be found in America than elſewhere, and ſtill more ſo in a country ſo thinly inhabited as the diſtrict of Maine. But this ſlight want of order and economy in the general's undertakings, though it will no doubt diminiſh his profit, will however not prevent it from being ſtill very conſiderable.

Among the direct profits of his enterprizes he may reckon one of a more important nature that he will derive from the increaſed value of lands, which will be the conſequence of that activity and thoſe improvements.

His example excites and encourages induſtry in many of his neighbours, and the induſtry of his neighbours further enhances the value of his lands. Thus his calculations are juſt: and while he obſerves in his undertakings all the economy and regularity which ſurrounding circumſtances will admit, he cannot incur the cenſure of any except greedy miſers, or men who have not ſufficient

diſcernment to anticipate all the probable conſequences of his enterprizes.

Timber has riſen in price ſince laſt year, but fire-wood in a higher proportion than any other: the cord of the latter was ſold laſt year for a dollar at the water-ſide; it is now at a dollar and half; and there is not found a ſufficiency for the ſupply of Boſton, where the price is at preſent five dollars, and will be from ſeven to nine within two months.

Lime has fallen in price in conſequence of the number of kilns that have been erected. The barrel of fifty gallons was laſt year ſold for ten ſhillings and nine pence; at preſent the price is from eight to nine ſhillings.

Hay has riſen one tenth, but merely on account of the drought of the ſeaſon.

The price of cattle, however, has riſen one ſeventh: a circumſtance which indicates ſome little increaſe of wealth in the country.

The number of veſſels now on the ſtocks is alſo more conſiderable. In Saint-George's River alone, eleven have been built ſince laſt year. The price of the workmanſhip has likewiſe

likewiſe riſen from three to five dollars per ton: the carpenter, who was paid ten dollars per month laſt year, now receives eleven.

But theſe ſymptoms of increaſing wealth, together with the augmentation in the price of lands, are obſervable only on the ſea-coaſt or the borders of navigable rivers, and in the thick-ſettled parts of the country.

The number of new inhabitants is by no means conſiderable: and every thing that I ſee and hear at preſent ſtill further confirms me in the opinion I laſt year entertained that immigration to this country cannot take place to any great extent unleſs it be excited by powerful inducements, by great eſtabliſhments, by large and judicious expenditures on the part of the great land-holders who are intereſted in encouraging thoſe new ſettlements.

The attractions of the country, the nature of the ſoil, would not alone be ſufficient to invite new ſettlers: and the diſtrict of Maine will yet long continue in many parts a deſert, unleſs, by a ſucceſſion of means duly adapted to all the circumſtances, its population be accelerated and multiplied beyond

the extent of its natural means and of the annual increaſe it derives from immigrations.

Thoſe gentlemen who ſpeculate upon 'Change do not enter into all theſe calculations. They prefer the certain proſpect of two or three per cent per month to the probability of doubling or decupling their fortune by expences which would for a while divert a part of their caſh from thoſe ſpeculations: and they expect from the unaided operation of time an increaſe in the value of their lands, which, however, will not by that ſlow proceſs ever take place in thoſe northern countries.

Such is ſaid to be the plan intended to be purſued by Mr. Bingham, who, after having ſold to Mr. Baring for ſixty thouſand pounds ſterling one half of the twelve hundred thouſand acres of land which he poſſeſſes at the head of Penobſcot-River, continues to hold the entire tract in conjunction with him as partner upon equal terms. He beſides owns three millions more of acres in other parts of the diſtrict of Maine. So much the worſe for him. He is not or at leaſt he cannot long be certain of quietly keeping in his hands

hands ſuch extenſive tracts of land: and Mr. Bingham's popularity will not ſcreen him from the inconveniences which, in a country like this, may attend the poſſeſſion of ſo large a portion of the ſoil kept idle and unproductive in the hope of an exorbitant gain.

If great and judicious diſburſements were laſt year neceſſary, as I think they were, to create a demand for, and conſequently to enhance the value of, thoſe immenſe tracts of land engroſſed by a few rich proprietors, the neceſſity has this year derived additional urgency from the treaty with Spain, which, by throwing open the navigation of the Miſſiſippi, excites a predilection in favour of the weſtern lands, and ſo far diminiſhes that which might have been entertained for thoſe of the diſtrict of Maine. The lands themſelves, as well as their great produce of timber, will yet farther ſink in value, if Spain cedes to France the poſſeſſion of Louiſiana, which, in the hands of an active and induſtrious nation, will furniſh the means of vending a much larger quantity of timber, beſides holding out to new ſettlers the allurement of a milder climate in addition

to that of excellent lands which will no doubt long continue at a much lower price than thoſe of the diſtrict of Maine.

Spain can herſelf create the ſame advantages as France could in Louiſiana, if ſhe chooſes to retain it in her own poſſeſſion. It is therefore matter of urgent neceſſity that the owners of eſtates in this part of the Union ſhould take meaſures for the ſale of their lands, and conſent to make diſburſements which, however heavy in the firſt inſtance, will be repaid to them with ample intereſt, provided they be ſoon and judiciouſly made. Otherwiſe the ſpeculating proprietors will experience ſevere loſſes.

In the diſtrict of Maine the queſtion is at preſent agitated, whether, taking advantage of the right which it derives from its population, it ſhall ſeparate from the commonwealth of Maſſachuſetts, and erect itſelf into an independent ſtate. Meetings have been called on the ſubject, and various petitions have been drawn up: and, to determine the queſtion of ſeparation, nothing more is required than to aſcertain the wiſh of the majority of the inhabitants of the ſtate, who will

will be conſulted next year. Their opinion was already taken on the ſubject four years ſince, and they declared againſt the meaſure. It is thought that on the preſent occaſion the deciſion will be different; becauſe the increaſe of population in the interior parts of the country has augmented the number of thoſe who, not being connected with Boſton by any ties of direct intereſt, anticipate none but beneficial conſequences from having the ſeat of their government nearer to their own homes. But the plan of ſeparation will experience a powerful oppoſition from the influence of the proprietors of thoſe immenſe tracts of land.

Taxed as the diſtrict of Maine now is by the ſtate of Maſſachuſetts, it has but a very moderate burden of taxation to bear, becauſe it is conſidered as an infant province, as not yet having called forth into activity its ſlender reſources, and as containing extenſive tracts of unproductive land which the ſtate of Maſſachuſetts herſelf has recently ſold to the great ſpeculators above mentioned. Thoſe vaſt poſſeſſions are therefore very lightly taxed at preſent. But the caſe will

be different if the diſtrict of Maine be erected into a ſeparate ſtate: for, in the firſt place, the public expences will be increaſed; and, on the other hand, the jealouſy entertained by the laborious and indigent claſs of proprietors againſt the poſſeſſors of immenſe tracts — who, enjoying opulence in other ſtates, ſuffer their lands in this quarter to lie unimproved, in expectation of the time when they may be enabled to ſell them at a higher rate to thoſe ſame petty proprietors —will cauſe a conſiderable augmentation in the taxes on that ſpecies of property. It is known that thoſe lands have been purchaſed from the ſtate of Maſſachuſetts at a very low price: and the new ſtate of Maine will find her advantage in augmenting the tax upon them, inaſmuch as it will compel the great proprietors to divide and ſell thoſe lands without delay, and conſequently will increaſe the number of inhabitants and the quantity of produce.

Above one half of the diſtrict of Maine is owned by ſuch proprietors; the principal of whom are—General Knox for the Waldo-patent, the Plymouth company, the company

pany of the twenty townſhips, General Lincoln, Mr. Charles Vaughan, and particularly Mr. Bingham who poſſeſſes there from three to four millions of acres.

Theſe ſimple facts ſufficiently ſhew what great obſtacles will be oppoſed to the formation of the new ſtate: but thoſe obſtacles will probably be removed, ſince it is a meaſure which juſtice and the intereſt of the people demand.

RETURN TO BOSTON.

After twelve days ſpent at General Knox's habitation, I quitted the diſtrict of Maine, and returned by ſea to Boſton. I had gone by land in the preceding year; and nothing now remained to gratify my curioſity in the courſe of ſo long and difficult a journey. The veſſels that ſail from the diſtrict of Maine are ſo heavily laden with cumbrous articles that no ſpace is left open on the deck beyond what is neceſſary for the management of the helm; conſequently there is no poſſibility of walking; and a paſſenger muſt either confine himſelf to the cabin or ſit on the

the cargo. That of the ſchooner in which I ſailed was fifty cords of fire-wood. Fortunately the weather was fine—the cabin new and neat—the maſter, whoſe name is Kelleran, a very civil good-natured man—and my paſſage of only thirty-ſix hours' duration.

On the day preceding my arrival at Boſton, the preſident's proclamation was received there, in which he announces his firm determination of retiring from public life. It is in the month of March next that the four years of his ſecond preſidency will expire; and in December of the preſent year the elections will be held for the choice of a perſon to be placed at the head of the federal government. It was therefore time that he ſhould announce his reſolution, which I cannot otherwiſe conſider than as a ſerious misfortune for the United States: for the office of preſident is not ſo well provided with the means of execution as not to require ſome acceſſion of ſtrength from the popularity of the man who holds it, and from the confidence repoſed in him by his fellow-citizens. Now, in all the United States, no individual poſſeſſes ſo many claims to the general con-

fidence

fidence as George Waſhington, nor does any individual enjoy it in ſo high a degree.

That proclamation of the preſident, beſides what relates to his reſignation, contains alſo political counſels to the citizens of the United States.—No man entertains a higher reſpect than I do for the preſident's merit and virtues; none is more firmly convinced that the ſole object of his conduct has invariably been the good of his country; but when a man is a native of France, he muſt have that opinion eſtabliſhed on very ſtrong grounds indeed, if he do not, in one part of the proclamation, diſcover a marked antipathy to France, and a predilection for England, which bear a much ſtronger reſemblance to party-ſpirit than to the ſpirit of juſtice, or even, I will venture to ſay, to ſound policy. I do not mean that any blame can attach to him for the advice which he gives to his countrymen not to become dependent on any other nation: but it appears that this counſel, delivered ſimply and in general terms, would preſerve all its force, its propriety, its juſtice; whereas, offered as it is in ſuch ample extent, and with the characters

the characters which accompany its development, one cannot be ſurprized that the preſident's enemies find in it a ſubject for cenſure: and among thoſe who eſteem and reſpect his virtues without feeling the influence of party-ſpirit, there are few, I believe, who would not have wiſhed that this over-long article had been treated in a different manner. Even the other parts of the proclamation, which are not liable to the reproach of impropriety or party ſpirit, are juſtly taxable with diffuſeneſs and unneceſſary length. All the principles indeed are true, and the counſels good: but they would have been equally ſo, and would have appeared more ſo, if they had been delivered with conciſeneſs and ſimplicity. I have further heard it obſerved that the advices contained in that proclamation are unſeaſonably given. It is (ſay thoſe who cenſure it) in vacating the chair after the expiration of his term, that his adieux would have come at their proper time: but they are premature when the man who thus takes his leave of the public has yet ſix months to exerciſe his functions.

That proclamation, as may reaſonably be expected,

expected, meets with admirers who extol the very parts which moſt deſerve cenſure, as well as cenſurers who condemn in it what is entitled to nought but praiſe.

This reſignation of the preſident, which was doubted through all America a fortnight ago, ſeems however to produce no ſenſation at Boſton; it engroſſes no greater ſhare of the general attention than any other article of intelligence; and after the firſt day it ceaſed to be a topic of converſation. The defects and the merits of the proclamation are equally buried in ſilence. Does this indifference with which ſo important an event is viewed at Boſton ariſe from the circumſtance of the people's minds being wholly engroſſed by intereſted purſuits, ſo as to leave no room for any other object? or is it the offspring of conſtitutional apathy? Theſe are queſtions which I ſhall be better able to determine when I have ſeen a greater number of people and viſited different places. In the mean time I am not the leſs ſurprized at what I here obſerve.

During my ſhort abſence from Boſton, a fever, in which the phyſicians who were

conſulted

conſulted diſcovered the characteriſtics of the yellow fever, broke out in a cloſe narrow part of the town enjoying little circulation of air, and inhabited by poor families. Almoſt every one who was attacked by it died within three days; and thoſe who approached the ſick caught the infection. A hint of the danger of this contagion, prudently ſuggeſted to the Select-Men, though without pronouncing the name of "yellow fever," was productive of the ſalutary meaſure of cauſing the families who either were themſelves actually infected or had had communication with thoſe who were, to be removed from the town, their beds to be burned, and their houſes purified and ſuffered to ſtand empty, without alarming any one with a name which carries terror with it through every part of America. In conſequence of theſe precautions the diſeaſe diſappeared. Few of the ſick perſons who were removed fell victims to it; no individual of their families caught the infection; and Boſton, which loſt by this fever eight or ten of its inhabitants, now enjoys perfect ſalubrity.

The fortifications of Caſtle-Iſland have ſince

ſince laſt year been put into ſomewhat better condition. The parapets are raiſed, and within their incloſure are placed a ſcore of cannons, forty-two-pounders, taken from the Engliſh during the laſt war. Theſe cannons are mounted on coaſt-carriages, in a kind of imitation of our French coaſt-batteries ſo ſkilfully contrived by Monſieur de Gribeauval; but the imitation is very imperfect: the carriages are heavy and clumſily made; the platforms are deficient in ſolidity, and the parapets ſo little elevated that all the men ſerving the pieces would remain expoſed to the fire of the enemy's ſhips that might attempt to enter. It is at the expence of the commonwealth of Maſſachuſetts that Caſtle-Iſland has been put into this petty ſtate of defence, which is perhaps ſomewhat worſe than nothing, ſince it is incapable of anſwering any good purpoſe, and at the ſame time inſpires a vain confidence. The legiſlature have poſitively refuſed to cede this iſland to the general government, which, as I have obſerved in the journal of my firſt tour, had allotted funds to put it into a ſtate of complete defence.

PORTS-

PORTSMOUTH.

In going to Portſmouth I went over the ſame ground that I had travelled laſt year in coming from it.

The fever which carried off during this ſummer about forty perſons at Newbury-Port, has now ſubſided.

Epidemic diſeaſes generally ceaſe in every part of America at the commencement of the cold weather. The malady at Newbury-Port had, according to the aſſertion of the phyſicians, the characteriſtics of the yellow fever: but, ſince the ravages cauſed by that diſtemper at Philadelphia three years ago, the appellation is too lightly beſtowed on all epidemic bilious fevers, which, it muſt be owned, poſſeſs on this continent a conſiderable degree of malignity, and in the treatment of which the phyſicians do not ſeem to diſplay much ſkill.

Although theſe fevers have hitherto broken out only in the ſea-ports, many medical men do not now, as in the beginning, think them imported from the Weſt-Indies, but conceive

ceive them, like almoſt all other epidemic diſeaſes, to have originated in the country. That which prevailed at Newbury had its principal focus in a quarter contiguous to the port; but it alſo ſpread to ſeveral other parts of the town. It was not very deſtructive, ſince in three months it carried off only about forty perſons from a population of five thouſand inhabitants. The phyſicians aſſert, that, notwithſtanding the ravages of that diſorder, fewer perſons have fallen victims this year at Newbury-Port than uſually die at the ſame ſeaſon, which is always ſickly in a greater or leſſer degree. If this aſſertion be well founded, the fact muſt be conſidered as extraordinary.

CONSTITUTION, LAWS, AND COMMERCE, OF NEW-HAMPSHIRE.

During ſix days which I ſpent at Portſmouth, I procured ſome information reſpecting the ſtate of New-Hampſhire, which the ſhortneſs of my ſtay there laſt year had not allowed me to acquire.

The new conſtitution of this ſtate, framed

in 1782, underwent a reviſion in 1792. In its principal features it reſembles thoſe of all the other ſtates. Here follows a ſhort abſtract of it.

All the public functionaries, except thoſe of the judicial department, are elected only for one year.

The electors for all offices are the ſame; and the only conditions required to qualify an elector are the payment of a tax, the age of twenty-one years, and the profeſſion of the proteſtant religion. This laſt intolerant condition, which is ſaid to have experienced great oppoſition as well in the original formation of the conſtitution in 1782 as in its reviſion in 1792, is required for all the offices in the ſtate.

The ſenators are elected by diſtricts; and for this purpoſe an imaginary diviſion has been made of the ſtate into twelve diſtricts nearly equal in point of taxation. The ſenators are twelve in number, and chooſe from their own body a preſident, who performs the functions of lieutenant-governor whenever occaſion ſo requires.

The legiſlature can alter the boundaries of

of the diſtricts according to the changes which may take place in their relative wealth.

The qualifications for eligibility as a ſenator are, that the candidate have attained the age of thirty years, have reſided in the ſtate during ſeven years, and during one year in the diſtrict where he is choſen, and that he poſſeſs a landed property to the amount of eight hundred dollars.

The repreſentatives muſt be at leaſt one and twenty years old, have reſided in the ſtate during two years, be at the time of their election inhabitants of the townſhip by which they are choſen, and poſſeſs an eſtate of four hundred dollars, of which two hundred muſt be in landed property in their own right.

Each town or pariſh containing a hundred and fifty inhabitants who pay taxes ſends one repreſentative, and an additional one for every three hundred and fifty more. Such pariſhes as do not come up to the former number are joined together or united with others that are more populous, according to local circumſtances.

The ſame conditions which qualify for a ſeat in the ſenate are ſufficient qualifications for the office of governor; with only this difference, that, in the latter caſe, the poſſeſſion of an eſtate of two thouſand dollars is required. The governor is elected by townſhips, and muſt have an abſolute majority of votes: in caſe none of the candidates ſhould have ſuch majority, the two houſes of the legiſlature elect by ballot one of the two who have had the greateſt number of ſuffrages.

The ſtate is divided into five counties, each of which elects in the ſame manner a member of the executive council.

The power and the functions of the two houſes are the ſame as in the other ſtates.

The governor has a right to refuſe his ſignature to bills which have paſſed through both houſes: but he is bound to do it within five days after they have been preſented to him; and, after his refuſal, a majority of two thirds in each houſe can compel him to affix his ſignature. He nominates the judges, the ſheriffs, the general officers, the militia ſtaff; he is commander in chief of the troops, and

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can grant pardons; but all this muſt be done by the advice of his council. In caſes of nomination, the governor and they have the power of a mutual negative over each other. —The judges are appointed during good behaviour; but none of their number can remain in office after the age of ſeventy years.

The legiſlature of New-Hampſhire ſits twice a year.

In their laſt ſeſſion the legiſlature have regulated the mode of chooſing the ſix electors who are to vote for a preſident and vice-preſident of the United States. Thoſe electors are to be appointed, in like manner as the governor of the ſtate, by the electors of each townſhip. The votes are to be tranſmitted by the Select-Men to the ſecretary of ſtate: they are next to be examined by both houſes of the legiſlature, who will then declare the ſix electors. The perſons thus choſen are to meet on the firſt Wedneſday in December.

The laws of New-Hampſhire allow the utmoſt latitude of teſtamentary deviſe: but in caſes of inteſtacy one third of the property is aſſigned to the ſurviving huſband or wife,

and the remainder divided in equal portions among the children.

The criminal code, which is only a mitigation of the Engliſh code, ſtill inflicts the puniſhment of death in numerous caſes. Whipping and the pillory are the ſecond gradation of puniſhment, and are appointed for a very conſiderable number of offences. In many caſes the corporal puniſhment may be avoided on payment of a fine. Stealers of horſes or other cattle, after having ſtood expoſed in the pillory, are marked in the face with ſeveral black lines which time alone can obliterate. Thieves of every other kind are condemned to the ſame puniſhment in caſe of a repetition of their crime.

The law reſpecting Sunday, leſs tinctured with puerile ſuperſtition than that of Maſſachuſetts, confines its prohibitions to bodily labour and amuſements.

The finances of the ſtate are in good order. At the concluſion of the war its general debt amounted to about five hundred thouſand dollars, of which three hundred thouſand have been aſſumed by the Union, which allows for them, as elſewhere, an intereſt

tereſt of ſix per cent until they be reimburſed. The other two hundred thouſand, that remained as a debt on the ſtate, have been paid off by ſales of land and other ſpecial means; New-Hampſhire has at preſent in hand a fund of two hundred and fifty thouſand dollars, part in ſecurities of the United States, part in the bank.

The commiſſioners appointed to ſettle the accounts between the United States and the individual ſtates have declared New-Hampſhire creditor in the ſum of ſeventy-five thouſand and ſixty-five dollars.—The expences of the government are ordinarily about twenty-eight thouſand ſix hundred dollars: they are ſometimes higher according to circumſtances. In that ſum are not included the purchaſes of arms and ammunition required to furniſh the magazines to the extent preſcribed by the law.

Slavery is not aboliſhed here by an expreſs law, as in Maſſachuſetts. The firſt article of the New-Hampſhire declaration of rights pronounces that all men are born equal and independent: but private intereſt has ſuggeſted an interpretation of that article which

reſtricts its benefits to thoſe born after the promulgation of the conſtitution. There are however no ſales of ſlaves: the public authority is not exerted for the ſeizure of thoſe who run away; and the few ſlaves who are in the ſtate are in all reſpects treated on the ſame footing with other ſervants. Their children are educated at the ſame ſchools. The real evil, therefore, the degradation of ſlavery, does not exiſt in New-Hampſhire; and the name of ſlave is hardly known in the ſtate. No better plan could be adopted by a people who ſtopped ſhort of total emancipation.

For ſome years back the ſtate has impoſed no taxes. The legiſlature nevertheleſs make it a rule to exerciſe occaſionally the right of taxation, for the purpoſe of keeping the inhabitants accuſtomed to ſuch contributions, and alſo of increaſing the public reſources. The laſt ſum demanded was twenty-four thouſand dollars. Lands, movable property, cattle, even money in the funds, are ſubject to the tax: and the ſcale of proportion between the different articles taxed by the ſtate ſerves as a baſis for all the

the county and town rates, which, though more conſiderable than thoſe impoſed by the ſtate, are yet very light.

In the general aſſeſſment of the taxes, each county, and each townſhip in each county, has its particular quota aſſigned to it by the law, which may however vary in conſequence of any important changes taking place in the wealth of thoſe townſhips or counties.

The mode of aſſeſſing and levying the taxes is nearly the ſame in New-Hampſhire as in Maſſachuſetts. The valuation of all taxable property is to be made every fifth year at fartheſt. The poll-tax, to which all men from the age of eighteen years to that of ſeventy are ſubject, is eight ſhillings per head. The total annual amount of taxable property, according to the laſt valuation made in 1794, is forty-two thouſand and ninety pounds, or a hundred and forty thouſand three hundred dollars. The poll-tax payable by twenty-eight thouſand eight hundred and thirteen inhabitants makes a part of that ſum. The Select-Men are the aſſeſſors of the taxes in the different townſhips;

ſhips; and it is to them that the ſtate-treaſurer ſends the ſchedule of the apportionment of the taxes. They are in conſequence authorized to demand of each inhabitant a yearly written declaration of his property. In caſe of deception in thoſe declarations, the Select-Men aſſeſs the tranſgreſſor to four times the amount of the ſum at which he was rated. The inhabitants have the power of appointing the collectors; but the appointment is generally left to the Select-Men, who agree with the inhabitants for the expence of collection, which is from four to five per cent. The taxes are to be levied and remitted to the treaſurer during the courſe of the year; and they are in general punctually paid. The law provides means for calling to account the Select-Men, collectors, treaſurers, &c. who are guilty of neglect or diſhoneſty.

The ſtate debt, of which I have not been able to learn the preciſe amount, is far from conſiderable, and probably will within a very ſhort period be wholly extinguiſhed.

The roads, and the finger-poſts which the law requires to be erected on them, are kept

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in repair by the townſhips, that is to ſay, by the perſonal labour of each inhabitant, or a pecuniary commutation in its ſtead. The rate for the maintenance of the poor is alſo a town rate. Several houſes are eſtabliſhed for their reception in different parts of the ſtate, and are in general as ill kept as ſuch eſtabliſhments are every-where elſe.

Portſmouth is the only port of entry in the commonwealth of New-Hampſhire.—Exeter and Dover, ſituate in the inner part of the ſame bay, and to which ſome veſſels of inferior tonnage go up, carry on no commerce except through the medium of Portſmouth, and have no cuſtom-houſe. The exportations from Portſmouth amounted, in 1790, to one hundred and thirty-four thouſand three hundred and nine dollars—in 1791, to one hundred and fifty-one thouſand four hundred and twenty-five—in 1792, to one hundred and eighty-one thouſand three hundred and ſixty-eight—in 1793, to one hundred and ſeventy-ſix thouſand and eighty-three—in 1794, to one hundred and ſixty-four thouſand two hundred and ſeventeen—in 1795, to two hundred and forty-ſix thouſand

thouſand three hundred and ſixty-four—and, in the firſt ſix months of the preſent year 1796, to two hundred and ſixty-two thouſand three hundred and fifty-one.

The conſiderable increaſe in the preſent year was occaſioned by the extraordinary circumſtance of ſeveral ſhips coming from the Weſt-Indies, which, though conſigned to other ports, were obliged to diſcharge their cargoes here. The produce of the cuſtom-houſe duties on imported articles amounted, in 1790, to ſixteen thouſand five hundred and ſeventy-nine dollars—in 1791, to thirty-one thouſand ſeven hundred and fifty-four—in 1792, to forty-five thouſand four hundred and ninety-nine—in 1793, to fifty-one thouſand ſeven hundred and fifty-eight—in 1794, to fifty-one thouſand eight hundred and three—and, in 1795, to fifty-nine thouſand ſix hundred and fifty-eight. The principal articles of thoſe importations are the productions of the Weſt-India iſlands—wine, ſoap, oil, and hemp, from Europe—and manufactured goods. It is with the French iſlands that New-Hampſhire carries on the chief part of her Weſt-India trade, and

and with Holland and Germany of her European. It is moſt commonly through the medium of Boſton that ſhe receives her ſupplies of Britiſh goods. The veſſels belonging to Portſmouth that viſit England, ſeldom touch there except on their return from Germany.

The productions of New-Hampſhire are Indian corn, wheat, barley, rye, black cattle, goats, ſheep, hogs, horſes, mules, poultry, flax, hemp, pot-aſh, pearl-aſh, timber of every kind and in great quantities. Theſe furniſh matter for her exportations: but the local ſituation of the country, which removes from the vicinity of the ſea a great number of its inhabitants, and places them nearer to the Connecticut and the North-River, cauſes a great portion of the produce to paſs through Albany, New-York, and the towns of Connecticut.—New-Hampſhire re-exports moreover a great quantity of commodities imported from the Weſt-Indies.

The total amount of the tonnage employed by this ſtate in foreign trade was, in 1793, eleven thouſand ſeven hundred and nine tons—in 1794, twelve thouſand and eleven

eleven—in 1795, twelve thouſand nine hundred and ſeventy:—in the preſent year 1796, it is thirteen thouſand five hundred and forty. In addition to this, the tonnage employed in the coaſting trade and fiſheries was, in 1793, one thouſand two hundred and fifty-five tons —in 1794, one thouſand four hundred and twenty-eight—in 1795, one thouſand four hundred and forty-ſix:—and it now amounts, in 1796, to one thouſand four hundred and fifty.

The population of New-Hampſhire conſiſts of about a hundred and ninety thouſand ſouls. Although almoſt all the townſhips, which are generally of ſix ſquare miles, have been granted by the ſtate, ſome are yet wholly deſtitute of inhabitants, and many others contain very few. It is only from its own population that this ſtate can expect any conſiderable increaſe; for there is no immigration to it from other parts. The laws of New-England had long prohibited the admiſſion of any emigrants from Europe, except Engliſhmen, who are not eaſily induced to quit their native country. Since thoſe prohibitory laws have ceaſed to be enforced,

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foreign immigrants are not more numerous in New-Hampſhire than at former periods; becauſe, in the firſt place, Connecticut, Rhode-Iſland, and Maſſachuſetts, have at preſent nearly their due quantum of population; and, in the ſecond place, becauſe the tide of foreign immigration, having long ſince taken its courſe toward the ſtates of New-York, Pennſylvania, &c. will, for a long time to come, flow in the ſame channels, attracted by motives of conſanguinity, and the various relations exiſting between the new immigrants and the old. Such immigrations from thoſe three populous ſtates of New-England, as do not take a weſtern direction, incline toward Vermont in preference to New-Hampſhire, becauſe in Vermont the lands are cheaper. The ſtate of Vermont, moreover, at the time of its formation, paſſed a law, unjuſt in itſelf, but favourable to a ſpeedy increaſe of population in the country. A great part of its lands had been granted in the maſs to the inhabitants of New-Hampſhire by the governors of that ſtate, of which Vermont then conſtituted a part. When erected into a ſepa-

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rate commonwealth, the legiſlature of Vermont declared that every perſon taking poſſeſſion of the uninhabited lands, by whomſoever owned, ſhould enjoy them unmoleſted during the ſpace of ſeven years. Allured by this invitation, outcaſts, debtors, needy adventurers, flocked thither from all quarters. The inhabitants of New-Hampſhire, who were the proprietors of thoſe lands, fearing to ſee themſelves entirely deprived of them, concluded bargains with the newcomers on whatever terms the latter were pleaſed to allow. In conſequence of theſe tranſactions, the population of Vermont received ſo rapid an increaſe, that, although ten years ſince it hardly contained forty thouſand inhabitants, it now reckons above a hundred thouſand; and land ſtill continues there at a lower price than in New-Hampſhire, where from one to five dollars are paid per acre in the interior part of the country, according to the number of inhabitants already ſettled in the townſhip where the purchaſe is made.

Free ſchools are ſupported at the public charge in New-Hampſhire, as in Maſſachuſetts;

ſetts; with this difference, however, that in none of them do children receive the firſt leſſons in reading. The pupils are inſtructed in writing and arithmetic—in Latin, as far as Virgil and Cicero—in Greek, ſo far only as to tranſlate the Teſtament—and in the principles of the Engliſh language. An academy at Exeter purſues the courſe of education a little farther, and gives ſome tincture of the ſciences. The univerſity of New-Hampſhire is at Dartmouth on Connecticut-River. The parents of the children are bound to have them taught to read. The want of gratuitous inſtruction in that firſt ſtage is certainly a bar to the general diſſemination of knowledge through the ſtate.

The more I ſee of America, the more firmly am I convinced that the underſtandings of the people are every-where good. The inhabitants are induſtrious: each family has its domeſtic manufactories where the neceſſary articles of clothing are fabricated and died: yet few families refrain from purchaſing at the retailer's ſtore ſome European ſtuffs or ribands, that they may not, at

the meeting on ſunday, appear leſs fine than their neighbours.

The militia of New-Hampſhire is divided into twenty-eight regiments, and amounts to twenty-eight thouſand men, of whom two thouſand are cavalry, and ſix hundred artilleriſts.

Notwithſtanding the clauſe in the conſtitution which requires the profeſſion of the proteſtant religion as a qualification for every public office, unbounded religious freedom prevails in the ſtate, and almoſt every ſect of Chriſtians have here public places of worſhip.

The moſt ancient ſettlements in New-Hampſhire were formed ſoon after thoſe of Maſſachuſetts. Portſmouth and Dover are the places where the firſt eſtabliſhments were made. But diſturbances having ariſen in this province, and introduced a ſtate of anarchy which became intolerable to the majority of the inhabitants, they put themſelves under the protection of the colony of Maſſachuſetts which was in a much more flouriſhing condition, and where a more regular

gular ſyſtem of laws was followed. They incorporated themſelves with Maſſachuſetts in 1642: but the province of New-Hampſhire becoming more populous, and ſome diſcontents having broken out on occaſion of the ſuperiority which Maſſachuſetts aſſumed over it—and theſe diſcontents being moreover embittered by quarrels on the ſubject of religion—the inhabitants petitioned the Engliſh court that their colony might again become a ſeparate province; and accordingly, by an edict iſſued in 1679, Charles the Second granted their requeſt, and created New-Hampſhire a diſtinct and royal province.

One of the ſix frigates voted two years ſince by Congreſs was to have been built here: but, like thoſe of Portſmouth in Virginia and of New-York, it is among the three of which the national legiſlature at their laſt ſeſſion countermanded the conſtruction. The timber, which coſt ſo much money, remains in the dock-yard half-wrought; and, notwithſtanding all the care which, people ſay, will be taken for its preſervation, a very ſmall portion of it will after a few years be fit for ſervice. In a

dock-yard adjoining to that where this frigate was begun, the ſame workmen who were employed upon it are now building one intended to carry thirty-two guns, which was firſt laid on the ſtocks a month ſince, and is to be finiſhed by next ſpring. It is a preſent demanded of the United States by the dey of Algiers, as an inducement to his faithful obſervance of the treaty he has concluded with them. It is aſſerted that this condition, which the executive power of the United States is eager ſpeedily to comply with, is the reſult of a ſupplemental treaty which will remain unknown till the next ſeſſion of Congreſs; but that there can exiſt no doubt that neceſſity will oblige them to ratify it.—When we recollect that thoſe ſix frigates were voted for the purpoſe of repreſſing the piracies of the Algerines—when we read the treaty ſince concluded, and ſee a frigate given to thoſe ſame Algerines as a preſent from America—we might reaſonably be ſurprized if the power of the United States, and the conſiſtency of their political ſyſtem, were held in high repute at Algiers.

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In going to Portſmouth, I purſued the ſame track as laſt year, through Salem, Newbury, Hampton. I have therefore no new information to offer, except that almoſt every article is riſen in price, and that ſhip-building is carried on in all the creeks with ſtill greater activity than during the laſt year, as if trade were always to be carried on in American bottoms to the ſame extent. But the war cannot endure for-ever; and, on the return of peace, many of the ſhip-owners will diſcover that they might have employed their money to greater advantage.

I returned from Portſmouth by the upper road. It was at the diſtance of ſeveral miles from the ſea, and it is not longer than the other; but it is leſs agreeable, and more difficult, inaſmuch as it croſſes mountains and ſands, and eſpecially as it lies through a leſs beautiful and leſs cultivated country.

EXETER.

This town, fourteen miles diſtant from Portſmouth, is the ſeat of the government of New-Hampſhire, and ſituate in the county

of Rockingham, on the river Surampſcot, at the head of the bay of Piſcataqua. It contains about three hundred and fifty houſes, and from ſixteen to ſeventeen hundred inhabitants. The houſes are tolerably neat; and the place receives a good ſhare of activity from ſeveral mills for corn, paper, fulling, tobacco, chocolate, and ſawing, and from ſome iron-works.

I have obſerved that there was an academy in this town. It was incorporated in 1781 by an act of the legiſlature, under the name of "Phillips's Exeter Academy," from the name of a Mr. Phillips, a miniſter of Exeter, who was the principal donor to it.—Before the revolution, and at the time when Portſmouth carried on an extenſive commerce, many veſſels were built at Exeter: but, ſince the decline of the trade of Portſmouth, the ſhip-building at Exeter has dwindled almoſt to nothing; not more than two or three veſſels being annually built there, and theſe being only ſloops. No veſſels above the burden of twenty tons can go up to that town.

Under the head of Portſmouth I forgot

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to notice a particularity which would there have been more properly placed than under the head of Exeter, although the ſame fact exiſts here alſo. It is, that in that conſiderable town, where all the houſes except one or two are built of wood, the only mode practiſed for cleaning the chimneys is to ſet them on fire. That operation is performed in rainy weather, that the roofs, which are covered with ſhingles, may be the leſs expoſed to catch fire from the flying ſparks. There is not an inſtance on record of any miſchief having been cauſed by this ſingular proceſs of cleaning the chimneys. The want of chimney-ſweepers firſt gave riſe to this practice, which is at length ſo thoroughly eſtabliſhed by habit, as to be now employed in preference to any other, even when ſweeps happen to paſs through the town. The ſame cuſtom almoſt univerſally prevails in all the ſmall towns or villages of New-England, and alſo in many other parts of America.

HAVER-HILL.

From Exeter to Haver-hill, the country wears the appearance of a deſert; preſenting to the view an almoſt uninterrupted ſucceſſion of woods of the pooreſt kind and of the ſmalleſt growth—here and there a few acres cultivated—but bad land, bad culture, indifferent houſes: — the traveller fancies himſelf at the diſtance of a hundred miles from any inhabited country. Within a few miles from Haver-hill the country aſſumes a more pleaſing aſpect; the land is better, the cultivation more regular, and the houſes more ſightly. Haver-hill is in the ſtate of Maſſachuſetts, and ſituate on the Merrimack, the ſame river which forms the port of Newbury. Over this river was built in 1794 a tolerably handſome bridge, conſiſting of three wooden arches, each a hundred and eighty-two feet in breadth, and ſupported by ſtone piers and buttreſſes. This bridge is not ſufficiently light in its upper part: and as the intervals between the arches are not raiſed to a level with the tops of the vaults, there

there is a deſcent from each to the plat-form of the pier, and an aſcent to the next, ſo as to render the paſſage unpleaſant. But civil architecture has not yet made ſufficient advances to improvement in this new country to admit of attention being paid to the convenience of travellers.

A conſiderable number of ſhips are annually built at Haver-hill — often fifty or ſixty. The greater number of them are ſold in the ſouthern ſtates. Only ſix veſſels are owned by the merchants of this port, and employed in the Weſt-Indian and even in the European trade: but they take their cargoes to Boſton, whence are procured the foreign commodities neceſſary for the conſumption and trade of Haver-hill, which ſupplies many townſhips in the back country. The ſtores here are numerous and well ſtocked: and the manufactories that claim more particular notice are a pretty conſiderable one of ſail-cloth, and ſome diſtilleries. Although hemp is produced both in New-Hampſhire and Maſſachuſetts, that of Ruſſian growth is alone uſed in this ſail-cloth-

cloth-manufactory; and it is procured from Boſton.

I have been aſſured that veſſels of a hundred tons burden can come up to Haver-hill in the high tides. This town, which contains between two and three thouſand inhabitants, is moreover in a ſtate of increaſe: and a great number of handſome houſes are now a-building in it. The price of land in its vicinity is a hundred dollars the acre: at ſome diſtance, it is only thirty. The agriculture in its immediate environs is almoſt ſolely confined to Indian corn and meadow. It is eaſy here to procure workmen; and their wages are four ſhillings and nine pence per day, and ſeven dollars per month. A maſon can earn ſeven ſhillings, a houſe-carpenter nine ſhillings, and a ſhip-carpenter two dollars. Philadelphia flour now ſells here at thirteen dollars the barrel, that of the country produce at ſix or ſeven. This enormous difference ariſes not only from the difference in the beauty of the grain and in the goodneſs of the mills, but alſo from the adulteration of the country flour, which, not being

being ſubject to any inſpection, is mixed with the flour of peas, beans, and potatoes, and thus is inferior in quality even to good Indian meal.

RETURN TO BOSTON.

Beyond Haver-hill bridge the traveller enters the townſhip of Brentford, which is a part of the county of Eſſex, and where the land ſtill preſents the ſame appearance. In this townſhip is a conſiderable manufacture of men's ſhoes for exportation. The number daily produced by the workmen of this little place is eſtimated at two hundred pair. Theſe ſhoes, which are of good materials and well made, are ſold at four ſhillings and nine pence halfpenny the pair. The leather employed in making them comes from the Spaniſh part of Saint-Domingo.

From Haver-hill to Boſton the country is quite rich, abounding in good houſes and beautiful farms. The townſhip of Andover in particular is remarkable for its charming meadows, and the numerous herds of fine cattle with which they are ſtocked.

On

On this little journey I chatted, according to my cuſtom, with every one whom I found diſpoſed for converſation: and it is not very common in America to find perſons who are averſe to it, eſpecially among thoſe who do not rank among the firſt claſs of ſociety. I every-where obſerved a ſenſe of reſpect for the preſident, but an indifference on the ſubject of his reſignation. "He is old; and men cannot laſt for ever:" ſuch is the general remark. Beſides, leſs importance is attached to the choice of his ſucceſſor than I ſhould have expected. In this part of the country indeed the votes will be pretty generally in favour of John Adams. "He is a good man," ſaid to me a Colonel Beverley who keeps a tavern: "Jefferſon is alſo a good man: we cannot fail to find good men in America."

The general ſpirit and opinion of the people are the ſame here as throughout all New-England, and indeed in almoſt every part of America—a heart-felt recollection of the ſervices rendered by France, and of the evils inflicted by England. Neither the new political ſubtilities reſpecting the real motives

tives of thoſe ſervices, nor the documents of national ingratitude which are the reſult of them, have yet impaired the friendly diſpoſitions entertained by the people of America toward France. They remember that ſhe aided them in the hour of need: they wiſh her proſperity, take an intereſt in her ſucceſſes, and enjoy them with delight. They equally remember that England burned and deſtroyed their houſes, and did them all the miſchief in her power. They would not however on that account join with France to wage war againſt England: they ſtill equally continue to ſupply their wants with the articles of Britiſh manufacture (which circumſtance, be it obſerved *en paſſant*, affords a juſt ſubject of animadverſion on the want of ſkilful management in the former French government); but they pour forth their ardent prayers for the welfare of France. The attachment to La Fayette, ſo perceptibly diminiſhed in the great towns even ſince my arrival in America, has ſuffered no abatement in the other parts of the continent; and numbers of honeſt ſouls are every-where found who declare that a general

ral tax, impoſed for the ſole purpoſe of raiſing for him a conſiderable property, would be paid with the greateſt chearfulneſs throughout the whole extent of America.

THIRD VISIT TO BOSTON.

This time I found Boſton in a ſtate of conſiderable agitation. The cauſe is ſomething of a much more ſerious nature than the reſignation of the preſident: it is the intelligence of the reſolution announced by France of cauſing her ſhips of war and privateers to ſeize every neutral veſſel laden with goods of Britiſh manufacture. Already, I believe, in this journal, I have mentioned ſuch an event as likely to take place—as being a juſt and perhaps over-tardy retaliation for the capture of American ſhips laden with proviſions for France—as a meaſure which, conſidered in a commercial view, inflicts a deeper wound on Britain than on America, ſince two thirds of the cargoes exported from or imported into America are the property of Engliſh houſes—and which, in ſhort, even if it were to prove ſevere in its

its operation on the American commerce, finds its apology in the late treaty concluded between England and America, in the active part which the American merchants took in that treaty, and in the facility with which they delivered up to the Engliſh without reſiſtance or reclamation the veſſels laden for France. I do not think I am blinded by my affection for my country when I thus juſtify the ſtep lately taken by her governors, and pronounce this ſevere meaſure to be within the bounds of that juſtice which is conſiſtent with the dreadful right of war.

I am convinced that every honeſt man, who is unbiaſſed by private intereſt and abſolute maſter of his own opinion, will think as I do on the ſubject: but he could not, any more than I, flatter himſelf with the hope of bringing over the commercial houſes of America to his ſentiments: "a loſing gameſter cannot ſmile," ſays the old proverb; and it is beyond all doubt that this deciſive act of the French government, the object of which is to ruin the manufactures and trade of England, will be deeply felt by the commercial fortunes of this continent.

Accord-

Accordingly the merchants of Boſton, or at leaſt a part of them, exclaim againſt it as fraught with injuſtice, horror, treachery, and openly expreſs their wiſhes that America ſhould declare war againſt France. Theſe puerile wiſhes ſhew what loſs they fear, and how far their ſenſibility of it influences their judgement.

That intelligence was the ſole topic of converſation in Boſton at the time of my arrival: nevertheleſs it found apologiſts among the inhabitants, even among thoſe engaged in trade. Since the more recent news that a French fleet is on its way to Halifax, people talk leſs loudly againſt that declaration: for fear, as well as intereſt, has its influence. If France, while ſhe does ſome little injury to the commerce of America, ſhows that ſhe has it in her power to do ſtill greater, ſhe will find ſo many friends in all that claſs of the Americans who now declare againſt her. Such is the mode that has been purſued by England; and, however painful it may be to make the remark, it is a good and effectual mode.

With reſpect to myſelf, it is with pleaſure I con-

I conſider the meaſure adopted by France as a mean of compelling England to a ſpeedy peace—an event which will prove a bleſſing to the Britiſh nation, and a ſtill greater bleſſing to the inhabitants of France: for peace will more than any thing elſe contribute to give ſtability to their liberty and conſtitution, whereas they are both expoſed to conſtant danger by the war. Let us then hope that a durable peace will reſtore to Europe that tranquillity and ſecurity of which ſhe ſo greatly ſtands in need, and that France, capable of ſupporting the trying burden of proſperity, will ſhow herſelf as great and generous at the moment of ſheathing the ſword as ſhe has been terrible while ſhe wielded it: let us hope that ſuch a peace will ſoon confer on the French people all that plenitude of happineſs which they cannot fail to enjoy under a government who ſhall have leiſure to devote their thoughts to a good ſyſtem of adminiſtration.

After a third reſidence of a week at Boſton, I finally quitted it to proceed toward Philadelphia. It was not without regret that I parted from ſeveral perſons who had con-

tinued to ſhow me the ſame multiplied marks of friendly intereſt and obliging attention which they had laviſhed on me in the preceding year. At the head of the liſt I will place Doctor Euſtis, a man as really good as he is agreeable, prudent, enlightened in his opinions, liberal in his ſentiments and conduct, eſſentially amiable and eſtimable, and endowed with an independence of character which ſecures all thoſe qualities on a firm baſis. I have conceived for him a ſincere friendſhip, which ſeparation or diſtance will never prevent me from cultivating.

MARLBOROUGH, AND THE WILLIAMS FAMILY.

The firſt night of my journey, October 13, I ſpent at Marlborough in the houſe of the ſame Williamses where I had been ſick laſt year, and had experienced ſuch remarkable attentions from the family. I would not on any account have paſſed their door without ſtopping. They received me with cordial demonſtrations of pleaſure. People delight in ſeeing thoſe to whom they have rendered

rendered ſervice; and I felt a ſincere ſatiſfaction in again beholding thoſe to whom I felt ſo many obligations. Honeſt Williams's crops have been good this ſeaſon in every department of his huſbandry. His farm, which I perambulated in company with him, is in excellent condition: he plentifully dungs his land; and in conſequence his meadows yield him from ſix to eight thouſand weight of hay per acre. He reaps from fifty to ſixty buſhels of Indian corn per acre; and, the Indian corn bearing a price of ſeven or eight ſhillings the buſhel, each acre thus produces him about ſeventy dollars. The wages of his workmen are increaſed: laſt year they were ten dollars per month; this year they are twelve; and, at the time of the hay-making, he was obliged in ſome inſtances to pay ſo high as twenty dollars. The lands of his farm would not, in their preſent ſtate, be ſold for leſs than three hundred dollars per acre: he lets ſome near his own habitation at a rent proportioned to the value of a hundred and fifty.

This country of Maſſachuſetts, however mountainous, is in a general ſtate of good

cultivation : but although in ſome townſhips large quantities of wheat are produced, the principal objects of culture are Indian corn, potatoes, and meadow.

The political opinions of old Williams have undergone no change: he ſtill continues a zealous admirer of the preſident, ſtill hates the Engliſh. Speaking to me of the preſident's reſignatory addreſs, " Does it not," ſaid he, " contain great truths ? But what does he mean by that *fondneſs* and that *antipathy* which he does not wiſh the Americans to entertain ? It is ſaid that he alludes to the French and Engliſh : I ſhould not be over pleaſed with that: but the old man knows more of the matter than we ; and no doubt he has good reaſons for what he ſays."

BROOKFIELD.

From Marlborough to Brookfield where ended my ſecond day's journey, the face of the country continues the ſame, and the ſame cultivation prevails. In the environs of Brookfield are raiſed wheat, barley, rye, a little

a little Indian corn, and a great quantity of potatoes. Grounds kept in good order yield two hundred buſhels of the latter per acre, which being ſold at two ſhillings the buſhel, each acre yields of courſe a product of ſixty-ſix dollars. However abundant the crops of potatoes may prove, a ready ſale is found for them at that price. In the vicinity of this place are reared great numbers of cattle, which are quickly taken off as ſoon as they are fit for the market. Excluſive of the conſumption in the town, which is not inconſiderable, large quantities of beef are here ſalted for exportation. Some horſes are alſo reared. The lands are dunged, but not near ſo well as in the neighbourhood of Boſton. The meadows in good condition produce nevertheleſs ſix thouſand weight of hay per acre. Indian corn bears no higher price here than nine pence the buſhel. The lands in the central and moſt populous part of the townſhip ſell for two hundred and thirty dollars the acre; ſomewhat farther back, and in large parcels, for no more than thirty-four: a few acres of picked land would be rated at ſeventy. A pair of oxen

fit for the yoke coſt from ſeventy to a hundred dollars; good milch-cows from twenty-five to thirty. In theſe prices ſome augmentation has taken place ſince laſt year.

In the election of the future preſident, the votes of this diſtrict, as of by far the greater part of New-England, will be in favour of John Adams: but it appears, though to my very great aſtoniſhment, that the nomination to that high office occupies only a very moderate ſhare of the public attention.

PALMER.

From Brookfield to Palmer the country is more hilly, and the tops of the hills are leſs cultivated: cultivation however extends to a certain height up their ſides, as well as over the valleys. The meadows are covered with numerous herds of cattle, and of a good breed. Here the traveller has to paſs through more woods than he had yet met with ſince his departure from Boſton.—Philadelphia flour, which had fallen two months ſince to ten dollars, has riſen in the country parts to thirteen and fourteen. That of domeſtic

domeſtic growth coſts only nine dollars: but, notwithſtanding this difference, the Philadelphia flour is preferred whenever it can be procured.

SPRINGFIELD.—THE ARSENAL, &c.

As far as Springfield the country exhibits ſtill leſs appearance of cultivation; and at ſix or ſeven miles from that town it is no better than a parched tract of ſand where grow ſome diminutive pines. The ſoil is alſo very ſandy at Springfield: but the proximity of Connecticut-River, and more careful culture, render it more productive. Rye, Indian corn, potatoes, and meadow, are the moſt frequent objects of cultivation. Some farmers ſow wheat, particularly on the new grounds: but of ten wheat crops hardly one is even tolerable, as the land is extremely ill manured in this diſtrict. In the town, land may be purchaſed for ſixty-ſix dollars the acre: in the centre, however, and near the river, there are acres which would coſt two hundred; but they are few: farther back, the value is from eight to ſixteen.

The prices of the country produce and of labour are nearly the ſame here as at Palmer and Brookfield, or perhaps ſomewhat lower. It is eaſy to find workmen at four or five ſhillings per day, without food, and for nine dollars per month.

Springfield is a neat and tolerably well-built village containing a population of eighteen hundred inhabitants. Here is eſtabliſhed one of the arſenals of the United States, where muſkets are fabricated, cannons and howitzers caſt, gun-carriages conſtructed, &c. but in ſmall number. The magazines do not contain above ten thouſand muſkets, of which ſeven thouſand are French, and of the old make of 1763. That model, which has long ſince been reformed in France, is the one which is followed in America; and the imitation is yet imperfect. It cannot however be ſaid that thoſe muſkets are bad: their chief defect is that of being too heavy at the extremity.

Thirty pieces of cannon, of which twenty are French, are alſo contained in theſe magazines. Thoſe of American foundery ſeemed to me to be well made: the carriages are ſo likewiſe:

likewiſe: but their number and their ſpecies do not correſpond with the cannons and howitzers. In every particular, there appears to me a want of intelligence in the general direction of the ordnance in America. Beſides, the quantities of arms provided do not amount to one twentieth part of what would be requiſite to put the country into a reaſonable ſtate of defence.—The magazines are in good order, and very well kept: the muſkets are furniſhed by a contractor, from whom the directors receive them; and he receives from the United States eleven dollars for each muſket. Another contractor ſupplies the cannon: but, as he was abſent on buſineſs, I could not learn any particulars reſpecting the price of theſe. It would be uſeleſs for me to enter into any further details concerning this arſenal, which, though one of the principal in the United States, adds nothing to their ſtrength.

A Frenchman, Monſieur Pourchereſſe Bourguignon, formerly an officer in the royal Swediſh regiment in the French ſervice, is an aſſiſtant to the director. He ſeems to be as good a man as he is unfortunate.

He

He has a wife and children, and poſſeſſes no other means of ſupporting himſelf and them than the ſalary of his office, which is only three hundred and ſixty dollars per annum. But he has the good ſenſe to be ſatisfied with the Americans, to live on friendly terms with them, to enjoy their eſteem and affection, and to ſhew himſelf grateful toward thoſe who have rendered him ſervice. His wife, yet in the years of youth, is intereſting by her figure, her miſfortunes, and her fortitude. They both have merited and gained the general eſteem and intereſt of all the inhabitants of Springfield.

There are beſides at Springfield a good diſtillery, a paper-mill, and a tannery: there was alſo a tolerably extenſive manufactory of ſail-cloth: but it has fallen to decay in conſequence of the exceſſive price of labour in that branch, together with the difficulty of procuring workmen or inducing them to ſtay.—Let me further obſerve that Springfield, whoſe firſt ſettlement dates from the year 1636, has during the laſt twenty years received no acceſſion of new inhabitants.

Mr. Lyman, a member of Congreſs, for whom

whom I had a letter from my friend Colonel Burr whom I had caſually met at Boſton, appeared to me temperate in his opinions, moderate and gentle in his diſpoſition. He is, like the majority of the ſtate which he repreſents, a federaliſt in his politics, but more tolerant than many others for thoſe who think differently from him, and whom he nevertheleſs continues to eſteem and love. The general temper of the people here, as in the other parts of the country which I have traverſed, is that of reſpect for the preſident, attachment to the conſtitution, averſion to war, and an ardently favourable diſpoſition toward the French.

Excluſive of the ſmaller manufactories which I have mentioned as exiſting in Springfield townſhip, there is alſo a manufactory of caſt iron, belonging to an aſſociation of ſeveral partners, of whom one of the principal is a Colonel Smith, who keeps a ſhop in the town. The ore which is employed in it is dug up from a ſwamp at the diſtance of a mile from the foundery, which is itſelf four miles diſtant from Springfield. This manufactory produces coarſe heavy works,

works, principally pots for maple-ſugar, with which all the inhabitants of the back country provide themſelves: it likewiſe furniſhes common pots, andirons, &c. For ſome time after its firſt eſtabliſhment it did a conſiderable deal of work: but it has experienced a material diminution from the operation of the ſame cauſes which impede the ſucceſs of every kind of manufacture in America; and it now hardly does more than ſupply the demand of the townſhip.

CANAL OF HADLEY.

At the diſtance of eight miles from Springfield, at a place called Hadley, are the falls of Connecticut-River. To avoid them, a little canal of two miles has been dug, which thus extends the navigation ſixty or eighty miles farther. This canal is raiſed above twenty feet higher than the bed of the river: the boats are raiſed to and lowered from it without the aid of water, by means of an inclined plane. They are placed in a kind of cradle ſo framed as to fit their ſhape, and then drawn up from the river to the canal,

or

or let down from the canal to the river, by the working of a capſtern, that is turned by a wheel which the ſtream of the river puts in motion. The boats are not unloaded for this operation. I had ſeen in France the plan of a ſimilar project, of which Monſieur Brulé claimed the invention. Time alone can aſcertain whether, as was apprehended in France, the durability of the boats will be impaired by this proceſs: I am inclined to fear that it will.

WEST-SPRINGFIELD AND WESTFIELD.

On quitting Springfield you paſs Connecticut-River in a tolerably good boat, whoſe edges, however, you would wiſh to ſee ſomewhat higher: for, in their preſent low ſtate, they would not be ſafe with unquiet horſes. Beyond the river, you enter the townſhip of Weſt-Springfield, one of the richeſt and moſt populous in the ſtate of Maſſachuſetts. On this ſide of the river the lands are conſiderably better than on the Springfield ſide; and many of the inhabitants of the latter place are proprietors of them: they are principally

cipally laid out in meadows, where cattle of every kind are reared in great numbers. The townſhip of Weſtfield, which is contiguous to it, is leſs happy in richneſs of ſoil, and ſtill far inferior in population: accordingly many tracts of land, which would be capable of producing good crops, remain uncultivated. Weſtfield, ſituate on a river bearing the ſame name, is a neat well-built little village, ſtanding in the middle of a plain. The ſoil is a rich ſandy earth, and the principal mode of cultivation here, as elſe-where in the adjoining tracts, is meadow. The new grounds are ſown with wheat, as is the practice with all the new-cleared lands which are not of the firſt quality. The labourer is paid from eight to nine dollars per month: wheat is ſold at nine ſhillings the buſhel, Indian corn at five, oats at two; and a pair of good oxen coſt ſeventy dollars. The price of new lands is from three to ten dollars per acre, according to their quality and ſituation; and, in farm-lots, twenty or thirty dollars.

STOCK-

STOCKBRIDGE.

In proceeding from Weſtfield to Stockbridge, the traveller ſucceſſively paſſes through the townſhips of Brentford, London, Bethlehem, Ruſſel, and Kyrningham, occupying the whole breadth of the Green Mountains, of which the ridge is above twenty miles broad, and, as I think I have elſewhere obſerved, begins at Newhaven, whence, traverſing the ſtates of Connecticut, Maſſachuſetts, and Vermont, it reaches to the River Saint-Laurence in Canada. The land in theſe townſhips is indifferent, and very thinly peopled: in travelling through them, one fancies himſelf in the diſtrict of Maine, or in the back part of the Geneſſee country: one ſees patches of new-cleared ground in all the different ſtages of progreſſive improvement: but ſuch ſights are very far from numerous. The price of land here is from ten to fifteen ſhillings.

One might be aſtoniſhed, that, ſituate as this country is ſo near to the great marts for produce, the emigrations from Connecticut, and

and even from the over-populous parts of Maſſachuſetts, do not take their courſe in this direction rather than toward Vermont or the Geneſſee country. But, in emigrating, the American gives a preference, above every thing elſe, to the land which he thinks the beſt, and is not with-held by any conſideration of proximity to his family or connexions, or by the greatneſs of the diſtance which he will have to traverſe in queſt of it: and the uncleared lands of Maſſachuſetts are far from equal to thoſe of the Geneſſee, the Ohio, Teneſſee, &c.

I ſhall in future ſay nothing of my converſations with the people with whom I fall into company. They are all in the ſame ſtrain; and I am convinced that the idea I have already given of them in this journal is preciſely accurate.

Stockbridge is one of the richeſt townſhips in the ſtate of Maſſachuſetts. All its land is cultivated, except a very ſmall portion, which will ſoon in its turn receive culture like the reſt. No timber is here preſerved beyond what is requiſite for fuel. This townſhip is for the moſt part ſituate in a valley

valley, but extends alſo upon ſome hills of no great elevation. The ſoil is excellent, and almoſt all laid down in meadow. The cattle, butter, cheeſe, and ſuch other productions as are not conſumed on the ſpot, are generally ſent to New-York. Sometimes the certainty of obtaining a higher price at Boſton induces the farmer to give a preference to the latter place, with which however the communication is difficult, becauſe of the diſtance, and of the mountainous country that is to be traverſed. In ſuch caſes, all the other articles, except the cattle, are ſent down to New-York by the North-River which paſſes within twenty miles of Stockbridge, and tranſported from New-York to Boſton by ſea.

There are likewiſe ſome forges and caſt-iron-works in this townſhip: but the high rate of workmen's wages, and the ſcantineſs of the mine which begins to be exhauſted, have for ſome years paſt cauſed a conſiderable diminution of their labours. The eaſy circumſtances enjoyed by the inhabitants render workmen ſcarce, and high in their demands. The wages at preſent paid to them

are from thirteen to fifteen dollars per month. The price of wheat is two dollars the buſhel, of Indian corn, one dollar; of oats, two ſhillings. A pair of oxen coſt from ninety to a hundred and ten dollars. Land bears the price of from fifteen to twenty dollars the acre, in farm-lots.

I have here ſeen Mr. Sedgwick, with whom I was acquainted at Philadelphia, and by whom I have been very hoſpitably entertained. In all the private relations of ſociety he is an excellent man: but in his politics he is ſomewhat warm, and not a little intolerant. He had long been a member of the houſe of repreſentatives in Congreſs, where he was a frequent ſpeaker: he has lately been appointed a ſenator. Mr. Sedgwick exerts all his influence to carry the election of a member to fill the ſeat which he has vacated, in favour of Mr. Williams, his pupil and friend, who ſeems even a hotter zealot than himſelf in Engliſh politics. Mr. Williams has for competitor General Skinner, a man of the age of ſixty years, who has all his life been honourably employed in public offices, and who, when he had

had it in his power to rival Mr. Sedgwick in his election ſome years ſince, voluntarily withdrew his name on a promiſe from the latter of procuring for him the votes of his friends to fill the firſt vacancy. But Mr. Skinner was once heard to ſay in a public houſe laſt year, that he did not approve of the treaty with England: and, ſuch is the toleration of the oppoſite party, that no one can in their opinion be an honeſt man without approving of that treaty. Mr. Sedgwick in conſequence oppoſes him, and gives to Mr. Williams all his influence, which is pretty conſiderable in theſe parts. Such is the account which I have received of this affair from ſeveral perſons. The Stockbridge gazette is full of thoſe ſcandalous quarrels, and may very well, in that particular, vie with thoſe of Georgia. In it General Skinner is branded as an antifederaliſt, and as "no good man," becauſe he diſlikes the treaty; and he is accuſed of entertaining a predilection for France and an averſion to England. Mr. Williams is abuſed on the oppoſite ground.

At the diſtance of thirty miles from Stock-

bridge, and in William townſhip, is a college which confers the different degrees inferior to that of doctor. It is ſaid to be a tolerably good ſeminary.

In a walk which I took with Mr. Sedgwick to Great-Barrington, I ſaw a continued tract of beautiful country, fine land, well cultivated, all in meadow, and a moſt excellent ſoil. As far as New-York the land is ſaid to be of the ſame quality.

CHARACTER OF THE INHABITANTS OF MASSACHUSETTS.

Before I quit Maſſachuſetts, I muſt add ſome ſhort remarks to what I have already had occaſion to ſay reſpecting the character of its inhabitants. They are perhaps a more unmixed people than any other in the United States, except thoſe of Connecticut, who are equally ſo, and for the ſame reaſons. Such of them as are not of Engliſh birth are natives of America, who have ſettled in Maſſachuſetts after a previous eſtabliſhment in ſome of the other ſtates. The number of Europeans is therefore ſmall in theſe two ſtates;

ſtates; and their inhabitants diſplay in conſequence more ſtriking marks of a common character and a national ſpirit, than thoſe of the other parts of the Union, whom they likewiſe unqueſtionably ſurpaſs in induſtry, activity, and enterprize. Their univerſal and predominating paſſion is the deſire of gain: it is openly avowed; and thoſe people, under an appearance of frank bluntneſs, conceal no ſmall portion of ſhrewdneſs and cunning. Hence it is a common ſaying in the other ſtates that "the Yankeys are honeſt according to the letter of the law." I know not how far it may be conſiſtent with juſtice to confine within thoſe bounds the praiſe due to their probity; for I have had no buſineſs to tranſact in this country: but, from every thing which I have ſeen, I preſume that it is equally ſafe to deal with them as with any other people in the United States, or, I believe, in the whole world.

The ſpirit of liberty is here rigid, and carried even to diſtruſt. Although the majority of the repreſentatives of this ſtate in Congreſs be of that ſect in politics who are conſidered as attached to Britain, I believe there

do not exiſt in the United States a body of people who, taken in the aggregate, preſerve a deeper and more painful recollection of the evils inflicted on America by England, or who more ſtrongly dread an intimate union with the latter. Their manners are extremely ſimple; and knowledge, at leaſt in its firſt degrees, is very extenſively diffuſed. Not a houſe is to be found in the moſt remote corners of the country, where a newſpaper is not read; and there are few townſhips which do not poſſeſs little libraries formed and ſupported by ſubſcription. The conſiderable fortunes acquired by the commerce which is carried on in the numerous ports of the ſtate prevent the general manners of the people from being ſo ſtrictly republican here as in Connecticut: but, for the ſame reaſon, leſs jealouſy prevails, leſs intolerance, leſs puritaniſm.

The ſpirit of equality is carried as far as is conſiſtent with order in a great ſociety. The man who is poſſeſſed of the greateſt wealth, and the moſt happily circumſtanced in every reſpect, ſhakes hands with the workman whom he meets on his way, converſes with him,

him, not under the idea of doing him an honour, as is often the notion elſewhere—, but from a conſciouſneſs, in the firſt inſtance, that he may at ſome future time ſtand in need of his aſſiſtance — afterward, without any ſuch intereſted conſideration, but merely through habit, and the force of education, and becauſe he ſees in him his fellow-man, only placed in a different ſituation, to whom he is the leſs tempted to think himſelf ſuperior, as it often happens that the now rich man has himſelf once been in a leſs enviable ſituation. This natural homage paid to the character of man poſſeſſes a certain charm which is truly pleaſing to an independent ſoul, eſpecially when experience proves that the different functions of ſociety are not the leſs ſcrupulouſly reſpected in conſequence of it, and that no individual is thereby ſubject to any greater reſtriction in the exerciſe of his own liberty.

A diminution of the influence of the prieſthood is an object much to be deſired in Maſſachuſetts: for, though it be leſs here than in Connecticut, it is ſtill too great. The prieſts form a body in the ſtate: they

are exclusively placed at the head of the colleges, and do not suffer any persons to be admitted as teachers except those of their own cloth, their own sect, and their own opinions in every particular. This influence will no doubt at length cease, and perhaps in consequence of the contrary excess. It is not impossible that an indifference to religious matters may become general through this country, where its germ is already developed; and I am not of the number of those who think such an event advantageous to a nation.

KINDERHOOK-LANDING.

At the distance of nine miles from Stockbridge, the traveller enters the state of New-York; and, after having traversed two or three townships, he arrives at Kinderhook. In the country which he now traverses, each township presents the same kind of soil, of culture, consequently of produce and of business, as the preceding. Above one half of the population of Kinderhook are Low Dutch or descendents of Low Dutch. These people

ple are not hafty to change old habits for new; accordingly they till and cultivate the land in the fame manner now as they did a hundred years fince.

It appears manifeftly evident that the farmers of New-England have a conſiderable advantage over them in point of produce: yet the conviction of evidence is not ſufficient to make them deviate from their old track. They ſow large quantities of grain, eſpecially of Indian corn, exhauſt their lands, and have ſmall crops. Few of them keep extenſive meadows, as is the general practice of the farmers come from New-England — a mode of cultivation, beſides, to which the ſoil ſeems beſt adapted, and which is the moſt certain and moſt ſolidly advantageous to the judicious farmer who purſues it. Land in the townſhip of Kinderhook is worth twenty dollars the acre in fine farms. Workmen are ſcarce, and are paid from twelve to fifteen dollars per month.

Five miles farther, we arrive at Kinderhook-landing, the place to which the productions of all the lands on this ſide the

Green

Green Mountains are conveyed for embarkation on the North River, ſuch as ſalt meat, wheat, Indian corn, cider, cheeſe, butter, potatoes, pot-aſh, flax-ſeed, &c. All this produce is brought down in light waggons which travel rapidly, and is embarked in ſloops which here take in their entire lading, or ſupply what is wanted to the cargoes which they were unable to complete at Albany. The different articles are generally purchaſed in the country where they were raiſed, by merchants of New-York or even of the vicinity: but it ſometimes alſo happens that the farmers themſelves, expecting to find a more advantageous market at Kinderhook, convey their commodities hither, and either ſell them here or ſend them on their own account to New-York, paying the freight.

The village of Kinderhook-landing is a petty aſſemblage of ſmall and mean-looking houſes. Six or ſeven ſloops belong to this place. Salt beef is here inſpected, and certified to be fit for exportation: that of prime quality coſts ſix dollars the hundred weight.

Flax-

Flax-ſeed is ſold for eighteen ſhillings the buſhel, but requires to be again cleaned and freed from its duſt before it be deemed fit for exportation. The wheat of the country, which is of beautiful quality, does not at preſent bear a greater price than thirteen ſhillings the buſhel; in conſequence of which, fine flour ſells no higher than eight dollars and one ſhilling per barrel. A fortnight ſince, the price was a quarter more: but the cauſes of ſo material a difference are here unknown.

HUDSON.

The country between Kinderhook and Hudſon is beautiful: it is ſomewhat hilly; but thoſe inequalities in the ground are only ſmall eminences, all well cultivated. Here, as in every other part of the country, the majority of the inhabitants are Dutch, deſcended from the firſt coloniſts who ſettled in theſe parts in 1636: the remainder are emigrants from New-England.

The town of Hudſon was begun in 1784, and now contains above four hundred houſes, all neat and well-built. Its population amounts

amounts to nearly three thouſand ſouls, of whom about two hundred are ſlaves. Few towns in the ſtate of New-York have experienced ſo rapid an increaſe: but during the laſt two years that increaſe ſeems to have been ſtopped in its progreſs. The town riſes about a hundred feet above the river: its ſtreets interſect each other at right angles, according to the plan adopted in the new towns. Of all thoſe which are built on the North River, this is the only one which carries on a direct foreign trade. Veſſels of every ſize can come to its wharfs, while the obſtructions in the courſe of the river at the diſtance of twenty miles higher prevent veſſels of more than eighty tons from going up to Albany. The trade of Hudſon conſiſts in the produce of the ſoil, the productions of tanneries, of forges, of a very fine rum-diſtillery—in train-oil (four veſſels, belonging to the merchants of this place, being employed in the whale-fiſhery)—and, finally, in the re-exportation of Weſt-Indian commodities.

Sixteen or eighteen veſſels of different ſizes are employed in foreign commerce; and five

or

or ſix ſloops are conſtantly engaged in the domeſtic trade between Hudſon and New-York, and convey to the latter the country produce which is not directly exported from Hudſon to foreign countries. The town is inhabited by families from New-England, of whom a conſiderable number are from Rhode-Iſland. I had letters for Mr. Jenkins here, a quaker from Nantucket, and one of the founders of the town, of which the ſoil was purchaſed by a company of thirty perſons. He alone poſſeſſes five ſhares in that company, of which few of the other partners have above two, and ſeveral only the half or quarter of a ſhare.

The politics of this place, and particularly of the quakers, are univerſally anti-britiſh.

The preſent price of ſhip-building at Hudſon is twenty dollars per ton, including the timber and workmanſhip; ready for ſea, fifty dollars per ton. The timber comes from the upper part of the river, and is excellent white oak. The purchaſe of town-lots, which are fifty feet in front and a hundred and twenty in depth, is from three hundred

and

and forty to thirteen hundred and thirty dollars, according to their ſituation. The adjoining lands, in farm-lots above half-cleared, may be bought for ten dollars the acre, and are good ſoil. Workmen are ſcarce, and muſt be paid fourteen dollars per month. The price of wheat is here regulated by that which it bears at Albany and New-York: at preſent it is thirteen ſhillings in the former of thoſe towns, and fourteen in the latter.

Hudſon is a port of entry, and has a collector of cuſtoms ſince 1795. But, to guard againſt fraud, veſſels coming from foreign parts are obliged to ſtop and make their manifeſt at New-York, where the collector ſends an officer on board if he think proper. Thus the manifeſts are principally made at the New-York cuſtom-houſe. The value of the exports from Hudſon, as regiſtered at the cuſtom-houſe of that place, was, in 1795, only three thouſand five hundred dollars.

A bank is eſtabliſhed at Hudſon, under the name of Columbia. Its capital, which, by the law for its incorporation, is reſtricted to a hundred

a hundred and ſixty thouſand dollars, conſiſts of four hundred ſhares, of four hundred dollars each.

SPERANZA. — FREEHOLD. — MAJOR PREVOST.—MONSIEUR ROUÈRE.

On the oppoſite ſide of the North-River ſtands the new town of Lambſburg, to which its founders have alſo given the modeſt name of Speranza (Hope). This town, which for a number of years had contained but a ſingle and pitiful houſe, cannot really date its origin beyond laſt year. At preſent there are fifty houſes erected in it: ſhops are opened; merchants are eſtabliſhed. A brig is already built, and employed in trade between Speranza and New-York. This infant town will, beyond all doubt, experience a conſiderable increaſe: it enjoys, in common with all the other towns built on the weſtern bank of that beautiful river, the advantage of an extenſive back country, which, in proportion as it becomes cultivated, will furniſh immenſe quantities of produce, that cannot find any more convenient or certain vent than the

the North-River. But thoſe countries are yet for the greater part deſert wilderneſſes, where the houſes are few and diſperſed. This is a common obſtacle which operates againſt all the towns, and for the preſent prevents any extraordinary proſperity of their commerce. But, in addition to it, Speranza will moreover have to conquer the habit in which the farmers have been of carrying their produce to the neighbouring towns that have been longer eſtabliſhed. The owners of the town-lands are now engaged in the formation of a road, which, joining at the diſtance of twenty miles the road that leads from Geneſſee, will render the communication with Speranza more eaſy than that with the other towns, and muſt, when finiſhed, cauſe a preference to be given to the former: the work is in great forwardneſs. The proprietors are the meſſieurs Livingſtons of New-York. The town-lots, each containing a quarter of an acre, already bear the price of two hundred dollars.

Colonel Burr had given me a letter to Major Prevoſt, who lives in the townſhip of Freehold, ſixteen miles diſtant from Hudſon.

Above

Above one half of the journey is performed on the new road, which is the fineſt part of it: the remainder of the way is over mountains, rocks, ſwamps; in ſhort, it is ſuch as the generality of the roads are in the new countries of America. In this tract the number of ſettlements is very ſcanty; and theſe are of the meaneſt appearance, and abſolutely in their infancy. Few houſes have above twenty acres of ground cleared around them; and many have much leſs. They are all log-houſes: the majority of the new ſettlers (and they are the better claſs) have immigrated from Connecticut.

Major Prevoſt has a neat little houſe built on a tract of nine thouſand acres, which belongs to him. He is ſon of that General Prevoſt, employed in the Britiſh ſervice, who diſtinguiſhed himſelf by the defence of Savannah, and diſgraced his character by the burning of many American towns. Previous to the revolution, he had received from the king of England a grant, to himſelf and his ſon, of about forty thouſand acres of land in different provinces of America. That ſon has during thirty-ſix years been a conſtant

reſident in the United States. Before the commencement of the war, he had married a young lady of Philadelphia; and he lived a conſiderable time in Pennſylvania, on a farm which he turned to good account. But a part of his property became involved in conſequence of debts contracted by his father-in-law and himſelf: he had a numerous family to provide for, and was unable to recover a conſiderable portion of the lands to which he was entitled: he therefore adopted the reſolution of retiring to that part to which his claim was the leaſt conteſted, there to live with economy, and patiently await the moment when, recovering his other poſſeſſions, he ſhould be certain of leaving a decent fortune to his children. He has loſt his firſt wife, and married a ſecond at Katſkill, by whom he already has three children. He has ſix others by the former marriage, of whom two have long been and ſtill continue in the Britiſh ſervice.

His preſence has conſiderably enhanced the value of his lands, of which he has ſold all that he did not chooſe to retain in his own poſſeſſion. The price is from three to ſix

dollars

dollars the acre, according to their ſituation. The ſoil is in general good. He has erected a corn-mill, a ſaw-mill, and one for grinding tanner's bark. Theſe he keeps in his own hands; and he ſeems to conduct his affairs with a conſiderable portion of intelligence. Major Prevoſt, a native of Switzerland, has all the frankneſs of an honeſt Switzer and of a genuine honeſt Engliſhman. He appears to be an excellent father; of which his preſent mode of life is a proof. He is beloved by his neighbours, ſeems juſt and impartial in his opinions, ſpeaks well of the American government, and is a good-natured and agreeable man. He has diſplayed a noble inſtance of generoſity and ſenſibility in the notice he has taken of a diſtreſſed Frenchman, a monſieur Rouère, whom he diſcovered at Hudſon in extreme poverty. This Frenchman, formerly a maréchal-des-logis in the king's body-guard, and now ſixty years of age, has acted like a man of honour and delicacy, and, far from treſpaſſing on the generous diſpoſition of Mr. Prevoſt, declines his kindneſſes as far as he can. Three hundred dollars received from his family, together

gether with a ſum raiſed by the ſale of ſome watches and articles of jewellery which he had brought with him, have enabled him to purchaſe a ſmall farm of thirty acres, of which only fifteen are cleared. Here he labours from morn to night like a young man, contents himſelf with the ſuſtenance of milk and potatoes, forgets his misfortunes, and renders himſelf worthy of the eſteem of all thoſe who ſet any value on delicacy of ſentiment.

The late treaty with England has inſpired Mr. Prevoſt with the hope of regaining poſſeſſion of all the lands to which his title is diſputed by the ſtates in which they lie, or by different individuals who have uſurped them under various pretexts, and hold them without any real right. But this will require a ſucceſſion of ſteady exertions continued during ſeveral years: it will be neceſſary to attend the various tribunals before which thoſe claims will be brought under diſcuſſion, and to urge the ſpeed of lawyers who are heavily laden with buſineſs. Many of his opponents who have taken poſſeſſion of his lands, are influential men: he is the ſon of a Britiſh general,

general, and has himſelf borne arms in America in oppoſition to the revolution: he has two ſons in the ſervice of England: all theſe facts, I grant, do not in the leaſt impair the juſtice of Mr. Prevoſt's claims, which to me appear incontrovertible: but juſtice is what people often find it moſt difficult to obtain from the miniſters of juſtice, eſpecially in this country when the queſtion relates to lands; and Major Prevoſt muſt unavoidably have to encounter numerous prejudices and prepoſſeſſions operating to his diſadvantage.

During my ſtay at Freehold there was no mention of politics. I could eaſily gueſs the political ſentiments of the major and his family: but, if I had entertained any doubt on the ſubject, it would have been completely removed by obſerving the avidity with which they read Peter Porcupine *.

* A Philadelphia paper conducted by an Engliſhman, which firſt made its appearance during the laſt year, and in which, amid a torrent of outrages and calumnies promiſcuouſly poured out, with ſome wit but much vulgarity, againſt every individual who is not enrolled under the Engliſh banner, it is laid down as an axiom of political doctrine that America cannot do better than to place herſelf in a ſtate of dependence on the cabinet of Saint James's.

On the whole, it is impoſſible to experience any-where greater civilities than I received from Major Prevoſt and his family, accompanied by great ſimplicity, and by that pleaſing manner which renders ſuch behaviour ſtill more agreeable. My ſtay with them was prolonged by a ſlight indiſpoſition, which afforded me a new proof of the intereſt that Monſieur Guillemard feels for me. At this time he was at Albany, where being informed of my illneſs, he haſtened to me with a friendly kindneſs which in him is invariable; for he ſhews greater conſtancy in his affections than in his projects. This little ſickneſs was only a tertian fever, of which I have experienced ſeveral attacks during the courſe of my travels, and from which, on this as on former occaſions, I was relieved by ſtrong doſes of Jeſuits' bark.

KATSKILL.

The road from Freehold to Katſkill is all bordered with habitations more or leſs recent, but all of very late date. Land however is ſold at pretty high prices in this tract.

At

At Singlekill, where we dined on the 31ſt of October, on our way from Freehold to Katſkill, the price of uncleared ground is from ſix to ſeven dollars the acre; farms, having one fourth cleared, are ſold at ten or twelve.

Intermittent fevers are very common in theſe parts in the autumnal ſeaſon; and it is even aſſerted that during the laſt three years they have been more than uſually frequent. They had been very prevalent at the commencement of the ſettlement, and had become leſs ſo for ſome years back. As the inhabitants can aſſign no reaſon for this return of inſalubrity, they attribute it to "ſomething in the air." But what happens here is very uſual in new countries, which, until they be entirely or in great meaſure cleared, become more unhealthy, probably in conſequence of the exhalations from the putrid ſubſtances with which the earth is covered, and from the ſtagnant waters, to which the action of the ſun is admitted by the partial clearance of the ſoil.

Monſieur Guillemard and I—for we now travel together—had a letter from Major Prevoſt to Mr. Bogardus, his father-in-law.

The latter is alſo an old American royaliſt, an enthuſiaſtic admirer of Peter Porcupine, and impreſſed with a belief that America would be much more rich and proſperous and happy if ſhe ſtill enjoyed the honour of belonging to his majeſty George the Third. But, conſidered in every other light, he is a generous and excellent man, extremely hoſpitable, and one with whoſe behaviour we have the greateſt reaſon to be ſatisfied. He inhabits a ſmall houſe on the oppoſite bank of the creek to that on which ſtands the little town of Katſkill. To this houſe is attached a farm of three hundred acres. He purchaſed the whole for three thouſand dollars ſix years ſince, and could now ſell the property for ten thouſand. It is true he has made conſiderable improvements on the ſpot: at the time of his purchaſe there were only eight houſes in the town, whereas at preſent it contains about a hundred, of which ſome have a good appearance.

Seven veſſels, moſtly ſloops, belong to this little town, and are conſtantly paſſing and repaſſing between Katſkill and New-York. A ſingle brig, of a hundred and fifty tons' burden

burden is employed during the winter in the Weſt-India trade, and even goes to Europe: it is owned by Mr. Jenkins, of Hudſon.

Katſkill, like all the other towns ſimilarly ſituated, receives the produce of the back country: but a natural gap in the Blue Mountains, which obliquely ſeparate the countries watered by the Suſquehannah at the commencement of its courſe from thoſe watered by the North-River between Albany and Katſkill, renders the communication with this latter place more eaſy.

We have been informed that pot and pearl aſh, which are a conſiderable article in the trade of new countries under clearance, are brought to Katſkill from the diſtance of above a hundred and fifty miles. The pot-aſh is ſold at preſent for a hundred and ſeventy-five dollars the ton. The uſual price is a hundred. To produce a ton of pot-aſh, are required from five to ſeven hundred buſhels of aſhes, according to their quality: and, in all the parts which I have lately traverſed, the aſhes are ſold at one ſhilling the buſhel. The pot-aſh is inſpected before it be admitted to exportation: yet, whether through want

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of ſkill or want of ſtrictneſs in the inſpector, it is often found to contain lime. It is diſtinguiſhed into firſt and ſecond quality. Salt beef is diſtinguiſhed into prime, ſecond, and ordinary; pork, into prime and ordinary.

Katſkill is built on a little hill which ſeparates Katſkill creek from the North-River, into which the former diſcharges its ſtream at the extremity of the hill. The majority of the houſes are ſituate on the ſide next the creek, where the embarkations take place; ſome however are on the ſide next the great river. The property of the ground on which the town ſtands is diſputed by three claimants; but the poſſeſſion is held by one of the parties, Clark and company, by virtue of an old patent that he has purchaſed, and on which the others ground their claim. Meantime the inhabitants hold their lot under Clark, whom they conſider as the lawful proprietor. But this exiſting diſpute, which the others are in no haſte to bring to a deciſion, prevents many perſons from coming forward as purchaſers. The lots, however, produce a good price, whenever they are expoſed to ſale: they contain each half a rood,

and

and are ſold ſo high as three hundred and ſeventy-five dollars. The mouth of the creek is not more than a quarter of a mile diſtant from the town.

Katſkill ſtands at the diſtance of a hundred and twenty miles from New-York; and the waters, which during the prevalence of the ſtrong ſoutherly winds become abſolutely ſalt, are at all times of the year brackiſh. The tide goes up as far as Hudſon.

Workmen at Katſkill are paid thirteen dollars per month, and are not eaſily procured. Here is a regular market, where beef is ſold at eight pence the pound.

Along the North-River is carried on a great trade in planks: but here, as in Maſſachuſetts and the diſtrict of Maine, the planks do not contain twice the thickneſs of the boards: their dimenſions vary in different places: they are an inch and half thick at Albany, an inch and quarter at Katſkill. It is on theſe dimenſions that all bargains are made which do not particularly ſpecify otherwiſe. The boards are an inch thick, and, of ſuch dimenſion, are ſold at ten dollars per thouſand feet; planks, ſixteen dollars and

two

two ſhillings; ſhingles, ſeven dollars and half per thouſand; barrel-ſtaves, ſeventeen dollars and half. The ſtaves are of oak; all the reſt, of yellow fir. Hemlock-bark, of which large quantities are alſo purchaſed for the tanneries of the country and thoſe of New-York, is ſold at four dollars the cord. At Katſkill are built the ſloops employed in the trade between that place and New-York. At preſent their price is from forty-three to forty-five dollars per ton, ready for ſea: they are generally of from ſeventy to ninety tons' burden.

Horſe-races are common in the ſtate of New-York. There was one beyond the river on the day that we ſtopped at Katſkill. Although it was but an indifferent race, and this part of the country is not inhabited by wealthy people, the bets made on the occaſion exceeded the ſum of four thouſand dollars. The beſt races are ſaid to be at Poughkeepſie, at the diſtance of fifty miles lower down: they take place on regularly ſtated days, and I have been aſſured that the wagers ſometimes amount to eight thouſand dollars. The horſes that run there are uſed

for

for no other purpoſe; and their price is from twelve to ſixteen hundred dollars. We have alſo been informed that the ſtricteſt honour does not prevail at thoſe races.

Katſkill, ſo denominated by the Dutch who made the firſt ſettlement on the ſpot, was, by the Indians, called Katſketed, which in their language ſignified "a fortified place." No foundation for that name can be diſcovered in the appearance of the country: and it is moreover well known that the Indians, eſpecially at that time, erected no fortifications. The great quantity of human bones, hatchets, tomahawks, and arrows, found buried in the earth around Katſkill, prove at leaſt that this place formerly was the principal ſeat of ſome conſiderable tribe.

The cultivation of the ſoil in the vicinity of Katſkill is indifferent; the lands do not, on an average of years, produce above twelve buſhels of wheat per acre, though the ſoil is tolerably good. Thoſe belonging to Mr. Bogardus, having greater attention beſtowed on them, yield him from thirty to thirty-five.

There has occurred this year on a part

of his eſtate a pretty remarkable phæno-menon. All this tract of country is a ſuc-ceſſion of little hills, or rather ſmall eleva-tions, detached from each other, and only connected a little at the baſes. One of thoſe hills, the neareſt to Katſkill-creek, and ele-vated about a hundred feet above the level of the creek, ſuddenly ſuffered a ſinking of more than one half of its declivity. It might have meaſured about a hundred and fifty feet from its ſummit to the extremity of its baſe, following the line of inclination. A breadth of about eighty fathoms fell in, beginning at about three or four fathoms from the top. The ſunken part gave way all on a ſudden, and fell ſo perpendicularly that a flock of ſheep, feeding on the ſpot, went down with it without being overturn-ed. The trunks of trees that remained on it in a half-rotten ſtate were neither un-rooted nor even inclined from their former direction, and now ſtand at the bottom of this chaſm of above four acres in extent, in the ſame perpendicular poſition, and on the ſame ſoil. However, as there was not ſuf-ficient ſpace for all this body of earth, which before

before had lain in a ſlope, to place itſelf horizontally between the two parts of the hill that have not quitted their ſtation, ſome parts are cracked and as it were furrowed. But a more ſtriking circumſtance is, that the lower part of the hill, which has preſerved its former ſhape, has been puſhed and thrown forward by the ſinking part making itſelf room—that its baſe has advanced five or ſix fathoms beyond a ſmall rivulet which before flowed at the diſtance of above ten fathoms from it—and that it has even entirely ſtopped the courſe of its ſtream. The greateſt elevation of the chaſm is about fifty or ſixty feet: in its ſides it has diſcovered a blue earth exhibiting all the characteriſtics of marl, and which, from the different experiments that Mr. Bogardus has made with it in ſeveral parts of his eſtate, ſeems to poſſeſs all its virtues. In ſome of the ſtrata of this marl is found ſulphat of lime in minute cryſtals.

It is not known what may have been the cauſe of this event, which the people here attribute to the operation of water, without well knowing why; for the inhabitants of Katſkill

Katſkill are neither deep-read, nor verſed in natural philoſophy, nor addicted to obſervation. This ſinking took place on the firſt of June of the preſent year, unattended by any noiſe, at leaſt by any that was ſufficiently loud to be heard either at Mr. Bogardus's houſe which is but three hundred fathoms diſtant from the ſpot, or in the town, which is ſeparated from it only by the narrow ſtream of the creek.

Mr. Bogardus does not beſtow on his neighbours ſo favourable a character as I have heard given to the inhabitants of the country in every other part of America: he deſcribes them as miſchievous and thieviſh; I know not whether upon good grounds, or whether he does not extend to the whole neighbourhood this general accuſation of thieviſhneſs in conſequence of a few apples and peaches that have been ſtolen from him —or whether his predilection for England may not have perſonally expoſed him to ſome unpleaſant treatment.

One fact however may be adduced in ſupport of Mr. Bogardus's opinion. A bridge over a creek at two miles from Katſkill has lately

lately been burned; and the country people think the deed was perpetrated with a view of promoting the private intereſt of a particular inn.

KINGSTON.

A wiſh to avoid the inconvenience of twice more croſſing the North-River induced us to prefer the weſtern road, though leſs frequented than the other. Between Katſkill and Kingſton the road all along runs between that beautiful river to which the traveller often approaches, and the Katſkill mountains, which are ſeveral miles diſtant. As far as Sagodus-creek, the country is thickly inhabited: in many places the farms are of conſiderable extent: the banks of the river are almoſt every-where laid out in meadows; the lands farther diſtant are appropriated to the production of grain of every kind. You frequently diſcover very beautiful proſpects — extenſive, agreeable, rich, on the ſide toward the river—ſerious, romantic, magnificent, toward the mountains, whoſe forms are grand and variegated.

You paſs Sagodus-creek in an indifferent boat, and enter a foreſt of white pines growing on a ſandy plain, from which you do not emerge till within two miles of Kingſton, that is to ſay, for the ſpace of ſeven or eight miles.

Kingſton—formerly called Eſopus, a name ſtill uſed by the country people—is the chief town of Ulſter county, and built on a creek of that name (the ſame which at ſome diſtance aſſumes the appellation of Sagodus, and which we had paſſed in the morning) in a beautiful little plain bounded on the weſt by that ſame maſs of mountains which here too are ſtill called the Katſkill mountains. The place of embarkation is two miles lower down, near the North-River, at the mouth of Redout-creek. This town was burned on the ſixteenth of October 1777 by General Vaughan, who had no other motive for his conduct than the luſt of devaſtation. At that time it contained a hundred and forty houſes: nor did more than a ſingle barn eſcape from the effects of his infernal barbarity. That expedition, which none of the inhabitants had expected, deprived them of

of every article contained in their houſes; and they were unable to ſave any thing except their lives. In the courſe of the ſame autumn two or three houſes were already rebuilt, and the remainder were reſtored in the following ſummer. As they were almoſt all ſtone houſes, the former walls had remained ſtanding, and facilitated this ſpeedy renovation of the town. It now conſiſts of about a hundred and fifty houſes, and carries on the ſame kind of trade as the other towns ſituated, like it, on the weſtern bank of the North-River; but not being ſo conveniently circumſtanced as Katſkill for communication with the back country, its commerce is leſs extenſive; though this will be conſiderably increaſed by the natural operation of time in ſpreading population through thoſe tracts, which are now for the greater part un-inhabited.

Six ſloops belong to the town, which are employed in carrying to New-York the produce that it receives, ſome articles of which, as timber, beef, pork, corn, do not come from a greater diſtance than between thirty and thirty-five miles. Flax-ſeed is brought

from the banks of the eaſtern branch of Delaware, that is to ſay, from the diſtance of ſeventy miles. As far as the mountains, the lands which environ the town, and are called Flats, are of the beſt quality, and are ſold for ninety dollars the acre; thoſe which lie toward the centre of the Flats, from five to thirty-five dollars. The inhabitants of the town being for the moſt part of Dutch deſcent, the Low-Dutch language is more familiar here than the Engliſh. There is no regular market in this town, though it contain a ſchool, an academy, a court-houſe, a priſon, and a Dutch-Lutheran church. When beef can be procured, it coſts ſix pence the pound.

We had letters to Mr. Van Groſbeck, one of the principal ſhop-keepers in the town, and formerly a member of Congreſs. To thoſe letters we were indebted for an invitation to tea, the ſmoking of ſome ſegars, a few glaſſes of wine, and a great portion of complaiſance in anſwering our queſtions: but this part of the country furniſhes few objects of inquiry. Mr. Van Groſbeck ſeems a good kind of man, and very temperate in his

his politics, which appear to intereſt him leſs than the concerns of his ſhop. An old phyſician, on the contrary, whom we met at his houſe, beſtows more attention on politics than on medicine. He is a decided republican, whoſe ſuſpicious diſtruſt ſeems incapable of being allayed. He bears a name which is celebrated in the annals of liberty —that of De Witt—and ſays he is deſcended from the famous John De Witt.

Mr. Van Groſbeck, in principle a federaliſt, but very tolerant in his politics, is the intimate friend of Colonel Burr, whoſe portrait, executed by a lad of the town, he has hanging over his chimney-piece. Mr. Burr, having diſcovered in that youth a great diſpoſition for painting, procured for him ſuch leſſons in the art as America was capable of affording, and has, at his own expenſe, lately ſent him to France and Italy to ſtudy the great models and receive the beſt inſtructions. The life of Colonel Burr is marked with ſimilar traits of beneficence and generoſity.

From our windows we diſcover, though above ſeven miles diſtant, the light of a

conflagration in the woods, which has already laſted eight days. Such accidents are very frequent in the clearing of lands by the aid of fire. The ſlighteſt inattention ſuffers the blaze to ſpread beyond the intended bounds: in which caſe it is impoſſible to extinguiſh it, eſpecially at this time when the drought and the falling of the leaves furniſh it with the means of rapidly extending its ravages. It alſo frequently happens that conflagrations are cauſed in the woods by the hunters, who, for the purpoſe of more certainly killing the deer, ſurround with fire the places where they ſuppoſe them to be. Some of theſe lines of fire are ſeveral miles in circumference: their breadth is inconſiderable; for, however narrow they may be, the deer never croſs them. The hunters generally adopt the neceſſary precautions to prevent the flame from communicating: but ſometimes thoſe precautions are neglected: ſometimes alſo, although they have been obſerved, a ſudden wind ſpreads the fire, which often conſumes the entire incloſure, and even great tracts beyond its bounds, involving in the conflagration all the ſettlements

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and houſes it meets in its way, and thus reducing many families to ruin.

Lime-ſtone is very common in this part: the inhabitants have already begun to burn large parcels of it, and ſend it to the neighbouring iſlands. At Poughkeepſie is burned a great quantity, which is ſold at New-York for a ſhilling the buſhel. This circumſtance, which is highly advantageous to the country, may poſſibly claſh with General Knox's ſpeculations on his lime from the diſtrict of Maine.—The freight of corn from Kingſton to New-York is ſix pence per buſhel; to Albany, it is ten pence.

A conſiderable traffic in ſalt fiſh is carried on at Kingſton. The ſmall bay near the landing-place facilitates the fiſhery of ſhad, herrings, and ſalmon, which come up Hudſon's-River in abundance in the ſpring ſeaſon, and to the catching of which the inhabitants of this tract are more attentive than thoſe of any other part on the banks of that river.

NEW-PATTZ.

We were informed at Kingſton, that, in purſuing the road which runs at the greater diſtance from the river, we ſhould have no creeks to paſs, and ſhould find good inns. We came, however, to Walkill-creek, which we were obliged to croſs in a boat ſo full of water, that, notwithſtanding our caution, we were compelled to ſit on horſe-back during the paſſage: and, inſtead of good inns, we found only a wretched tippling-houſe. The road approaches the ſame maſs of mountains which we ſaw yeſterday under the name of the Katſkill mountains, but which here are called by that of Changung. The country in general conſiſts of beautiful and fertile plains, but ſometimes interſperſed with ſandy tracts, and woods of little value.

The Walkill is the ſame creek which at Kingſton bears the appellation of Redout-kill. In the Low-Dutch language, *kill* ſignifies *creek:* and, as the Dutch were the firſt ſettlers of the ſtate of New-York, and more particularly afterward of the weſtern bank of

of the North-River, ſuch towns, mountains, and creeks, as have not preſerved their original Indian names, have for the moſt part received Dutch appellations. The country bordering on the Walkill is, to a conſiderable diſtance back, annually infeſted with autumnal intermittent fevers.

New-Pattz is almoſt univerſally inhabited by families of French extraction, whoſe anceſtors, having quitted France on account of their religion, took refuge firſt in Holland, then paſſed over to America, and eſtabliſhed themſelves at Pattz, a very old ſettlement founded by a Dutch colony. About forty years ſince, thoſe families quitted Pattz, and took up their reſidence a few miles farther, in a diſtrict to which they have given the appellation of New-Pattz. They now preſerve no other characteriſtics of their Gallic origin than a traditional recollection of, and a fond attachment to, the land that gave birth to their progenitors. Their names, ſtill remaining the ſame, are written and pronounced after the Dutch manner. Theſe people do not underſtand a word of French, but ſpeak bad Dutch and bad Engliſh: there

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is nothing in their manners by which an obſerver may be reminded of the country whence they have originated: they are dull torpid Hollanders, as ſavage as all the other inhabitants of the country whom we have met ſince our paſſage of the North-River. Their religion is the Dutch reformed. Each of theſe families, in ſome inſtances even the pooreſt, has one or two negroes or negreſſes; ſlavery being as ſtrictly maintained in the ſtate of New-York as in that of Virginia; with this difference, however, that, as ſlaves are leſs numerous here, they are much better treated. The price at which they are ſold is four hundred dollars for a full-grown man; half that price for girls. Theſe ſlaves are not baptiſed or inſtructed in religion, but are in that reſpect kept in the loweſt ſtate of degradation. The quakers and anabaptiſts who conſtitute a part of the population of new Pattz, have no ſlaves.

The lands in the neighbourhood are good; and their price is from ſixteen to twenty dollars the acre. Their produce is conveyed to Kingſton, but oftener to New-York. They are for the greater part laid down in meadows,

meadows, and feed abundance of cattle. The meadow huſbandry does not continue longer than three years, after which ſucceeds a crop of grain. The culture of the grain is bad, and the lands do not produce above ten or twelve buſhels per acre, or twenty-five buſhels of Indian corn. The price of grain here is regulated by that in the New-York market: it is at preſent thirteen ſhillings the buſhel: Indian corn is at a dollar and half. During the laſt ſpring, hay was ſold at five dollars per thouſand-weight: its uſual price is from three to four.

Workmen are not eaſily procured here; becauſe, as ſoon as they have been able to amaſs a little money, they go to the new countries and become farmers themſelves. They muſt be paid from ten to twelve dollars per month, and ſometimes two dollars a day in the harveſt-time. The greater part of the immigration to theſe new countries is from beyond the river, and from the ſtate of New-York itſelf.

Complaints are made here, as in every other place through which we have paſſed, of the extreme drought, which dries up all the

the waters, and reduces the greater number of the mills to a ſtate of inactivity.

NEWBURG AND NEW-WINDSOR.

The road from New-Pattz to Newburg is a continued ſucceſſion of inequalities. It croſſes all the hills which ſeparate this part of the country from the North-River. The country is thickly peopled, and exhibits pretty conſiderable farms, and vaſt barns, almoſt univerſally ſurrounded with ricks of hay. The lands are for the moſt part kept in meadows: but, each farm containing within its boundaries different expoſures of high and low land, a portion is always as regularly devoted to the plough. Such is the practice in the generality of the farms on the weſt ſide of the river, and to ſome diſtance back.

Newburg, which alſo lies in Ulſter county, is built on the bank of the river, and ſituate at the diſtance of four miles below the extremity of the Highlands. The back countries of which this town receives the produce being more thickly inhabited than

than thoſe that ſupply the other towns through which we have hitherto paſſed, its trade with New-York is more extenſive than theirs. Yet only ſix ſloops belong to Newburg: but thoſe ſloops, on account of the ſmall diſtance of New-York, perform almoſt twice as many voyages as thoſe even of Katſkill, which lies only ſixty miles higher. The produce from the banks of the weſtern branch of Delaware comes alſo to Newburg by roads which are ſaid to be very good. It is averred that above ten thouſand caſks of butter are annually ſhipped at Newburg and New-Windſor. The quantity has even been greater this year, and muſt receive a further increaſe from the extenſion of the ſettlements and the improvements in agriculture.

New-Windſor nevertheleſs is in a ſtate of decreaſe; a great bar, which renders the approach to it tedious and difficult, cauſing a preference to be given to Newburg, which will, it is probable, entirely abſorb the trade of the former place. Notwithſtanding this diſadvantage, New-Windſor ſtill has two or three ſloops employed in conſtant voyages to and from New-York. That town, ſituate

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in Orange-county and two miles below Newburg, conſiſts only of about forty houſes; whereas Newburg contains at leaſt four times that number, almoſt all built ſince the war. There were not twenty erected on the ſpot when General Waſhington made it his head quarters in 1779.

The proſpect here is grand. To the left, the eye follows through an extenſive ſpace the majeſtic courſe of this beautiful river, bordered in its whole length by little hills of variegated forms and all well cultivated:—in front it commands a view of the river two miles in breadth, and of the hills on the other ſide, well cultivated likewiſe and thickly inhabited: behind theſe, riſe the mountains which a little farther form the Highlands, and which, though very elevated, are alſo covered with farms, houſes, and cultivation:—more to the right, the eye penetrates the narrow channel which the river has formed for its paſſage through theſe lofty and beautiful mountains, and diſcovers the fortifications of Weſt-Point: farther to the right, the view is intercepted by that ſame chain of mountains which recede in waning

waning perſpective to the weſt, where they join the Alleghany ridge. The inhabitants of Newburg are almoſt univerſally immigrants from New-England. We are informed here that Orange-county is peopled by Iriſh and Germans, who are all induſtrious and good farmers.

At New-York a houſe is building for the college called the academy. The expenſe is defrayed by the preſbyterians, who, having for this purpoſe obtained the endowment of an extenſive tract of land granted to the epiſcopalians in the time of the Britiſh government, thus fulfil the condition annexed to that donation. This academy receives moreover the annual ſum of four or five hundred dollars from the funds deſtined by the ſtate of New-York for the ſupport and encouragement of ſchools.

The price of every article has riſen here, as in all other parts of America, ſince the commencement of the war. Workmen are ſcarce; and their wages are from twelve to fifteen dollars per month. Beef coſts eight pence the pound; a pair of oxen, from eighty

to

to a hundred dollars; a good cow, twenty-five.

We had a letter from Mr. Van Groſbeck of Kingſton for Mr. Seight, a lawyer of Newburg, from whom we experienced more civilities than ſervices; for he could not in ſix-and-thirty hours procure us a ſmall boat to convey us to Weſt-Point, whither we had ſent our horſes acroſs the mountains. We were obliged to wait for the garriſon's boat, which was ſent to us by the commanding officer when he found that we did not arrive.

PASSAGE OF THE NORTH-RIVER IN THE HIGHLANDS.

The navigation from Newburg to Weſt-Point preſents one of the moſt grand and majeſtic views that can be ſeen in any part of the world. The river, exceeding two miles in width, narrows its ſtream to paſs between the mountains, in a channel whoſe breadth is not more than half a mile. The mountains through which it forces its way, though

though not very lofty, exhibit the moſt beautiful, the moſt variegated, and the moſt majeſtic forms. In ſome places we behold maſſes of rock towering in perpendicular altitude, and threatening each moment to cruſh in their fall whatever paſſes beneath their feet. In other parts their form is more inclined: but here they are leſs naked, and bear a few oaks, a few pines, a few cedars, which grow on the rocks, though the eye cannot diſcover the earth which nouriſhes them. Again, theſe great mountains recede from each other, and their place on the banks of the ſtream is occupied by little hills, of fertile ſoil, and in many parts cultivated. The river inceſſantly winds through theſe different mountains: and the proſpect here is incomparably more beautiful than that of the junction of the Potowmack and the Shenandoah in the Blue-Ridge.

Weſt-Point is in the narroweſt part of this paſſage, which is eighteen miles in length. It is a promontory which advances a conſiderable way into the natural bed of the river, and forces the ſtream in a forward direction, where another mountain on the op-

poſite ſhore preſents to it an obſtacle equally unſurmountable, and drives it back to the ſide which it had quitted; ſo that the water abſolutely ſurrounds this ſpot, which, by its poſition, commands the navigation of that great river. Its channel at Weſt-Point does not exceed a quarter of a mile in breadth. This is the poſt that General Arnold intended to betray to General Clinton. The former at that time commanded the advanced guard of the American army; and the accompliſhment of his ſcheme would for a long time have retarded the termination of the war. I have ſeen the houſe in which the interviews took place between that traitor and the unfortunate major André: it was that where Arnold had his head-quarters; it ſtands at the diſtance of a mile from Weſt-Point, and on the oppoſite bank.

WEST-POINT.

This poſt is nearly in the ſame ſtate at preſent in which it was during the war. Fort-Putnam—which ſtands on the ſummit of the mountain, and of which the object was

was to cut off all approach to Weſt-Point from behind, as well as to ſupport ſome ſtill farther advanced intrenchments on the neighbouring mountains—had been begun in maſon's work by the celebrated and unfortunate Koſciuſko, at that time employed as an engineer in the American army. That fortification was continued two years ſince by Monſieur Vincent, a French engineer, and upon an excellent plan. But thirty-five thouſand dollars expended on it by Monſieur Vincent have been no better than a uſeleſs expenditure, ſince the further ſum of forty-five thouſand, requiſite for the completion of that great and intereſting work, has been refuſed—and the fine erections in ſtone which are half finiſhed, together with the caſemates which are only commenced, remain expoſed to the inclemencies of the ſevere winters of this climate, which will ſpeedily deſtroy thoſe walls unleſs Congreſs will grant the money neceſſary for at leaſt covering them.

In every other inſtance the American government ſhow the ſame inattention to all the grand objects of primary importance: they diſplay great zeal and launch forth into

great and ſometimes exceſſive expenſes during the firſt year, and afterward totally ſtop the ſupplies. Hence we ſee conſiderable ſums laviſhed without advantage, exhibiting moſt evident proofs of improvidence and ficklenefs in the government.

There is no other fortification at Weſt-Point, where indeed the hand of nature has already done ſo much, that, in caſe of emergency, it might ſoon be put into a reſpectable ſtate of defence. During the war, this part of the country, on both ſides of the river, was thick-ſown with ſmall forts, of which the veſtiges are ſtill to be ſeen, and which, when once the Americans had eſtabliſhed them, the Engliſh never ventured to approach.

Weſt-Point is the ſtation of the corps of engineers and artilleriſts of the United States, which conſiſts of four batallions of two hundred and fifty men each, and furniſhes detachments for all the poſts where the United States entertain a military force; beſides an entire batallion at preſent with the army of General Wayne in the Weſtern Territory. This corps ſingly conſtitutes above one fourth part

part of the American ſtanding army, of which the total number is only three thouſand four hundred men; and, ſmall as that number is, it cannot be completed. So eaſy and comfortable are the circumſtances of the people in America, and ſuch their independence of ſpirit, that—notwithſtanding all the temptations of liberal pay, extreme facility in obtaining furloughs, and indulgences of every kind granted to the ſoldiers, together with the gentleneſs of the diſcipline and the ſhortneſs of the engagements—it is found difficult to recruit that little army: yet, although the law of the United States ordains that none be admitted into the military body except natives of America, Engliſh deſerters are enliſted, Germans, Iriſhmen newly arrived, in ſhort every one who preſents himſelf; and, after all, the ranks are not filled to their due complement.

I ſhall ſpeak elſewhere of the pay of the American troops. The fault to which they are moſt addicted is drunkenneſs, which is ſo habitual that it eſcapes puniſhment. Theft is very rare among the ſoldiery, as indeed in the country in general: but to filch pro-

viſions or liquor is not conſidered as theft: it is a ſort of cuſtomary privilege at which the officers are obliged to connive, but which nevertheleſs does not extend to the ſtealing of live poultry, ſheep, or other animals; although it would not be quite ſafe to leave thoſe ſame animals expoſed, when dead and hanging up ready for uſe. Deſertions ſometimes happen, but in no conſiderable number. The term of ſervice was heretofore three years; it is now extended to five; and the bounty for enliſtment is fourteen dollars.

One muſt not expect to find the American troops well trained or remarkable for neatneſs: a European eye is ſhocked by their want of cleanlineſs and their unſoldierlike appearance. But theſe are defects ariſing from the nature of the country; and the recruiting ſervice would proceed ſtill more ſlowly, if greater ſtrictneſs were uſed to remedy them. This corps is exerciſed as the other troops, but with no greater ſucceſs. They are alſo taught to fire cannon and mortars; and this is the branch to which the chief attention is paid. The officer, however, knows little more of the buſineſs than the

the private ſoldier: and the government does not adopt any meaſures to provide that none but ſkilful officers be admitted, which indeed it would be difficult to accompliſh in this country—nor even to have them inſtructed after their admiſſion, which would be an eaſier taſk. The corps of officers, firſt eſtabliſhed about two years ſince, is compoſed of men of all countries. Such of them as we have ſeen are men of advantageous appearance, and ſeemed to be very good company: but theſe were only ten in number; and we have been informed that all the others do not in theſe particulars reſemble them. The officers are paid from thirty-five to ſeventy dollars per month, with the addition of a greater or ſmaller number of rations according to their grade. They are lodged in ſmall houſes irregularly built on an extenſive eſplanade at the foot of the mountains, where they have better accommodations than the French officers ever have had in barracks. The commanding officer is Monſieur de Rochefontaine, who ſerved in the army of the United States during the entire period of the war. He has ſince been in the French

ſervice; and he poſſeſſes much greater knowledge and ſkill than any of his officers.

I know not why the little army of the United States, conſiſting of three thouſand four hundred men, is not excluſively compoſed of artilleriſts, and, eſpecially, provided with a greater number of officers. In time of peace, thoſe artilleriſts might occupy the frontier poſts as uſefully as any other troops: they would even be more ſerviceable, ſince the occupation of thoſe poſts is entirely a ſervice of defence, and a ſmall detachment of artillery is ſtationed in each. The place of the regiments now on foot, which are not artillery, would be completely ſupplied in war-time by the militia or continental troops which then muſt be raiſed or aſſembled; and thus the United States would at leaſt poſſeſs an effective force of three thouſand four hundred artilleriſts, whoſe pay would not coſt them more than that of the other regiments.

But—again be it remarked—the American government betray the utmoſt improvidence, careleſſneſs, and ignorance, in every branch, and eſpecially in what concerns the military

military department. It is a frivolous excuſe to ſay that the executive power is cramped by the Congreſs: that may indeed be the caſe with reſpect to the expenſes required for the ſupport of a more numerous army, or even for the erection and maintenance of the neceſſary fortifications: but it is not, it cannot be, true with reſpect to the moſt uſeful mode of employing the ſums granted.

There is alſo at Weſt-Point a ſmall arſenal containing between ſix and ſeven thouſand ſtand of arms. It is kept in much worſe order than that of Springfield. Forty pieces of cannon, of all ſizes, and about the ſame number of carriages, many of which were not made for the pieces, are kept at Weſt-Point, partly in the ſtores, partly planted in various places for the defence of this and the ſurrounding poſts, which would require above a hundred. Probably a time may come when more capable men will be placed at the head of the different departments, and when theſe objects of primary importance will engage more ſerious conſideration. But

mean-

meanwhile much valuable time is loſt, and nearly all the expenſe incurred is fruitleſs.

It may be deemed ſurprizing that the military ſyſtem of England is that which is followed in this little handful of an army. In the firſt place, it is in itſelf a moſt wretched model for imitation: and beſides it would have been both proper and uſeful for the American government to break through the Engliſh habits, in this inſtance in particular, and eſpecially for the purpoſe of adopting ſomething better. The army is alſo dreſſed in Engliſh cloth; and, what is ſtill more remarkable, the muſkets which the contractors have undertaken to furniſh, and which are made after the ancient French model of 1763, are imported from England in pieces ready made, as locks, hammers, cocks, bayonets, &c. The contractor finds his advantage in this management on account of the high price of workmanſhip in America; and he is ſuffered to follow his own plan.

VER-

VERPLANCK-POINT.

Monſieur de Rochefontaine, after having given Monſieur Guillemard and me a very friendly reception, inſiſted on conveying us in his barge beyond the boundaries of the Highlands. This was a good opportunity of completing our examination of the whole of that intereſting part of the North-River; and with pleaſure we accepted his obliging offer. Mr. Lowel, adjutant-general of the corps, and friend of a rich inhabitant who reſided at the place where our navigation terminated, propoſed to conduct us to his friend's houſe, aſſuring us that we ſhould be joyfully received. We were not diſappointed of the pleaſure we had promiſed ourſelves from our little voyage; yet this part of the Highlands is much leſs beautiful than that which is paſſed in going to Weſt-Point. The mountains are here leſs elevated; their forms leſs bold; the bed of the river leſs narrow: the whole, notwithſtanding, exhibits a grand and beautiful ſcene, which the

the eye enjoys with rapture, and of which the mind long retains the remembrance.

On our way we paſſed under the remains of Fort-Montgomery, carried by the Engliſh during the laſt war. Farther on, and at the mouth of a little creek, we ſaw a flour-mill, erected two years ſince. The miller who built it was condemned by all his neighbours for the choice he had made of a ſituation: they aſſured him that the ſtream was not ſufficiently powerful, and that the water would often fail. Theſe repreſentations only encouraged him the more in the proſecution of his plan: he knew the extent of his reſources much better than his adviſers, to whoſe remonſtrances he made no other anſwer than that of giving to his mill the name of *ça ira*. Accordingly, the mill continues in motion, is conſtantly employed, does a great deal of work, and produces a conſiderable profit to the owner, who is a native of New-England.

As to the good reception with which Mr. Lowel had flattered us, we found ourſelves greatly diſappointed in our expectations on that

that ſcore; for Mr. Verplanck could hardly have given us a worſe, unleſs he had abſolutely turned us out of doors. This is the firſt time in the courſe of my travels in America that I ever failed to experience a hoſpitable reception. But Mr. Verplanck had not invited us; and it of courſe was quite natural that he ſhould have been diſpleaſed with our viſit: it was even candid in him thus to make us acquainted with his diſpoſition.

Verplanck-Point is on the eaſtern bank of the North-River. It was in the extenſive plain behind it that the junction was formed between the American and French armies in 1781, previous to their marching into Virginia. On the other ſide of the river, and oppoſite to Verplanck-Point, is Stony-Point, which General Wayne took from the Engliſh at the point of the bayonet. His van was commanded by Monſieur Dupleſſis, a French officer, whoſe valour and intelligence are not forgotten in America.

ARRIVAL

ARRIVAL AT NEW-YORK.

From Verplanck-Point to New-York we conſtantly proceeded along the eaſtern bank of the North-River: and travelling over very mountainous roads, much embarraſſed with rocks, and conſequently often bad, we hardly ever loſt ſight of that beautiful river, which in every point of view preſents intereſting proſpects: of theſe, the moſt beautiful in this part is the Tappan-ſea, ſo called becauſe here the bed of the river, for the length of ten or twelve miles, extends to ſuch a width as to reſemble rather a great lake than even the greateſt river.

At length we arrived by King's-Bridge in the iſland of New-York, where the ſoil, which is in general bad, is yet covered with indifferent woods in the parts moſt diſtant from the city. There are, however, numerous farms, and particularly country-ſeats, in all the tract which lies within ſix or ſeven miles of it, and in the parts bordering on the North-River, and on the arm of the ſea which ſeparates this iſle from Long-Iſland.

MINE-

MINERALOGICAL OBSERVATIONS.

American mineralogy, as I have already more than once remarked, offers few varieties for obſervation. The great mountains —that is to ſay, the moſt elevated—are generally formed of granite; as, for inſtance, in my laſt tour, the mountains of New Hampſhire, the Green Mountains, and the Highlands. Thoſe of inferior altitude ſucceſſively exhibit ſchiſtus more or leſs perfect, ſlate, feldt-ſpath, calcareous ſtone, and ſome ſand-ſtones of extreme hardneſs, and in a ſtate of great perfection. At the diſtance of eight or ten miles from New-York is a pretty rich copper-mine: the ore is irregularly ſcattered through a kind of ſandy-ſtone often reſembling grit and ſometimes the pudding-ſtone. It yields from ſixty to ſeventy pounds of fine copper per hundred weight. Previous to the revolution it uſed to be carried to England, where it bore a higher price than any other ore of the ſame metal. The mine has been ſeveral times wrought, abandoned, and reſumed. At preſent

ſent there are workmen employed in it, who are for the moſt part Germans, brought over from Europe for the purpoſe, and paid from fifteen to twenty dollars per month. However excellent the copper, the company cannot ſell it in pigs, and are now erecting mills to roll it into ſheets, and manufacture it into various houſehold articles. The ſteam engine for pumping off the water is very ill contrived, and the defect in its conſtruction extends its influence to the working of the mine. There is reaſon to apprehend, that, through the want of a good method and of ſkilful men to direct the works, this excellent mine will not prove advantageous to the company.

TREES.

Among the trees of various ſpecies, but ſimilar to thoſe which I had before ſeen elſewhere, I have diſtinguiſhed the kalmia, the liquidambar, the acacia triacanthos, the black walnut, and the *tulipier* * which does

* I cannot learn the proper Engliſh name of the tree here deſignated by the French appellation of *tulipier* or *tulip-tree.* T.

not

not grow to any conſiderable ſize in a higher northern latitude than that of forty-two degrees.

JOURNEY TO FEDERAL-CITY IN THE YEAR 1797.

TOUR FROM PHILADELPHIA TO CHESTER AND WILMINGTON.

ENNUI and melancholy drive me from Philadelphia, and impel me to ſeek tranquillity, or at leaſt amuſement, in a courſe of activity—My preſent deſtination is Federal-City. This excurſion is ſtill more ſolitary than my laſt year's journies, for I had then the company of my poor faithful dog *Cartouche*, who is now too old and infirm to accompany me; thus the ſources of conſolation vaniſh at the moment when we need them moſt. I ſet out the 26th of March 1797.

Wilmington road leaves the city of Philadelphia by thoſe long ſtreets which William Penn laid down in his deſign for uniting the Delaware and the Skuylkill; which, however, are not yet built upon to more than a

third of their intended length. Theſe ſtreets are uniformly railed, and the cultivated ground, whether farms or gardens, is alſo encloſed with railing. Though the ſoil here is of an indifferent quality, eſtates are valuable; as the vicinity of the city enables the occupier to manure his land plentifully, and enſures him the ſale of his produce at the beſt price. Dung is ſold by the cart-load at Philadelphia, at about a dollar per ton: the farmers uſe it much too freſh.

You paſs the Skuylkill at Gray's-Ferry, the road to which runs below Woodlands, the ſeat of Mr. William Hamilton: it ſtands high, and is ſeen upon an eminence from the oppoſite ſide of the river. It commands an excellent proſpect, but is not to be admired for any thing elſe. The houſe is ſmall and ill-conſtructed, very much out of repair, and badly furniſhed. The garden, which is ſmall, is neglected; but in an adjoining hot-houſe Mr. Hamilton rears plants procured at a great expence from all parts of the world. He is proprietor of from three to four hundred acres of the ſurrounding country, which with ſome pains and expence

pence might be converted into a lucrative and pleaſant farm. His houſe and gardens would receive as great embelliſhment from the neighbourhood of a good tenantry, as he would himſelf derive emolument from their labour; but either from indifference, or from a want of the neceſſary funds to defray the firſt expences of clearing the land, it remains uncultivated, and his houſe ſeems ſurrounded by a deſert. No man, however, is happier to receive his friends, or entertains them better, than Mr. William Hamilton: he is a chearful man, a moſt excellent companion, and is in every reſpect the gentleman.

Gray's-Ferry itſelf preſents a moſt pleaſing view. The toll-houſe, ſituated amidſt large points of rock, which here ſkirt the ſouth bank of the Skuylkill, the trees ſcattered here and there amongſt them, and a conſiderable number of ſailing veſſels belonging to an adjoining inn, form together a truly intereſting ſcene. This inn is a place of general reſort for parties of pleaſure in the ſummer, and is frequently viſited in the winter by the young people of Philadelphia,

who travel there in ſledges, dine, and ſometimes paſs the night there in dancing.

From this ſpot to Cheſter, however, there is not one agreeable proſpect. The country is flat without being ſmooth; the floods render it uneven in ſome places, but the ridges of the banks which they form are all of one ſhape and level. The whole of the land is in a ſtate of cultivation, and woods are only found in clumps. Cultivation however is neglected. Several houſes built with pieces of rock, cemented with a mortar of earth; a few, which are the neateſt, built with bricks; and a great number of block-houſes; are the only objects to be met with. Huts formed of logs and planks of wood, as miſerable as any that are to be ſeen in the pooreſt parts of France, cover the country. The inhabitant here is proprietor and cultivator: that he lives as hepleaſes, muſt be admitted; but in the moſt remote and uninhabited parts of America that I have viſited, I have never ſeen a greater proportion of wretched habitations. The men and women who are ſeen iſſuing from their huts are badly

badly clothed, and bear every mark of poverty. The children are in rags, and almoſt naked. The preſent moment however is by no means favourable to the appearance of the country. Nothing yet appears above the ground, except the corn, of which there is but a ſmall quantity in this part of the country. The water of the creeks, which we croſs, and that of the Delaware, which is frequently in ſight, is muddy, and of the ſame yellow colour as the banks which confine it; and the eternal wooden encloſures, which of themſelves are ſufficient to throw a gloom over the moſt delightful landſcape, add to the drearineſs of this, and to the tints of melancholy with which the ſeaſon of the year colours the ſcene. A ſmall creek near Cheſter ſupplies Philadelphia, from its banks, with ſtones which are uſed for paving their ſtreets: they are carried to within a mile of the mouth of the creek into the Delaware in ſloops, which are conſtantly ſailing to and from the city.

Cheſter is the chief city of the county of the ſame name in the ſtate of Pennſylvania. The court of common pleas and the quarter

ſeſſions of the juſtices are held here. This place is celebrated in the annals of Pennſylvania as the ſpot where the firſt colonial aſſembly was held, in the December of the year 1682. Cheſter contains about ſixty houſes, tolerably well built; of which five or ſix are good inns, very much frequented by travellers, and often by parties of pleaſure, beſides the ſtages, which are increaſed upon the Baltimore road, and in the eaſtern part of Maryland. They are alſo frequented by paſſengers from veſſels, who diſembark there in preference to purſuing their voyage up the Delaware to Philadelphia, which is frequently tedious when the tide is unfavourable.

Cheſter is admired for its proſpect, which is certainly extenſive, as the city, built upon a riſing ground ſomewhat elevated above the ſurrounding country, commands for a conſiderable diſtance to the right and left the plain below, and in front the Delaware with the country of Jerſey beyond; yet the eye, in running over this extenſive view, ſees nothing but a tireſome uniformity, the fields are flat, and without thoſe clumps of trees, which,

which, in Europe, give them ſuch a pleaſing appearance. The borders of Jerſey are likewiſe flat. A few mean log-houſes are juſt diſcernible at a very great diſtance, which being ſurrounded by two or three acres of cleared land are loſt in the foreſts behind them.

During the two hours which we ſpent at the inn we ſaw a great variety of travellers, the generality of whom were a civil, converſable, good ſort of people. Throughout the whole of my extenſive travels in America I have ſeldom met with any other ſort, but have always been confirmed in my opinion, that the Americans are in general a well-diſpoſed people. It muſt be underſtood that I do not allude to the inhabitants, eſpecially the wealthy inhabitants, of the chief cities.

The population of Cheſter amounts to about thirty thouſand ſouls; is about fifty miles in length, and forty-five in width. There are ſeveral iron mines, which however, at preſent, ſupply only ſeven or eight forges. A few miles beyond Cheſter we enter the ſmall ſtate of Delaware, which is diſtinguiſhed by the bad ſtate of the roads,

and by the bridges, which are almoſt all conſtructed of wood. The country becomes more mountainous; it is covered with rocks, which are not even removed from the highway, although with little labour they might be broken into pieces, which would render the roads excellent and durable. Cultivation appears to be ſtill more neglected here than in the vicinity of Pennſylvania. The land is badly ploughed, the furrows are not even ſtrait. The grounds in general are under water, though they might be drained with very little trouble. The houſes are even worſe than the lands. From ſome parts of the road, in clear weather, may be ſeen the city of Philadelphia, and the capes of the Delaware.

Half-way from Cheſter to Wilmington ſtands an inn, where the ſtage generally ſtops. It was kept about three years ago by an Engliſhman, a diſſenter, who, in the ſpirit of a demagogue, had a ſign painted repreſenting a decapitated female, the head lying by the ſide of the bleeding trunk; underneath which was this inſcription, "*The guillotined Queen of France.*" No authority poſſeſſed

ſeſſed the power of compelling him to take down this horrible ſign, at the ſight of which every body revolted; and as it was the only inn, within five miles either way, it could not be abandoned. However, that which the laws could not effect, the public voice accompliſhed. The horror excited by this infamous picture was ſo general, and ſo loudly proclaimed, that the brutal innkeeper was obliged to change his ſign, or at leaſt to alter it. He was unwilling, however, to relinquiſh the idea entirely. The female ſtill remained without a head, but erect, without any trace of blood, or implements of execution; and the inſcription was altered to "The *Silent Woman*." Such was the public reparation which this man partially made, but he continued to be deſpiſed: his inn was, however, ſtill frequented, becauſe, as I have before obſerved, it was the only one. Since that period other taverns have been eſtabliſhed; another innkeeper has ſucceeded the Diſſenter, and has exchanged the ſign of the *Silent Woman* for that of the *Practical Farmer*.

I have beheld a ſight to-day which, happily,

pily, is very uncommon in the United States: two women left their houſes when the ſtage arrived, to ſell bad apples to the paſſengers; they did not beg for money, but they received it. Among theſe was a woman who has fourteen children, all by different fathers; ſhe was never married, and is unable to ſay preciſely who is the father of any of her children. Such an inſtance would be mentioned as infamous, even in our European ſtates; but this poor woman by her own labour, and a few dollars procured from the charity of paſſengers, has brought up theſe fourteen children, without becoming burthenſome to the ſtate, and without the leaſt aſſiſtance from the fathers of theſe children, whom ſhe does not even know. This commendable attachment is ſome little extenuation of the licentious uſe which ſhe has made of her uncommon fruitfulneſs.

Brandywine Creek ſeparates the hundred of Brandywine from the liberties of Wilmington. Theſe hundreds are in ſome of the American ſtates, as in England, a diviſion of the counties. The ſtate of Delaware is thus divided. They do not contain

preciſely

preciſely one hundred pariſhes, as their name ſeems to imply; but they form, more than thoſe of England, a part of the adminiſtrative hierarchy of the ſtate of Delaware, which is divided into counties and hundreds. Each hundred has its own officers choſen by itſelf. A proportion of the national taxes and the county rates is levied upon each hundred, and that ſum, added to the expences of the officers of the hundred, is defrayed by an aſſeſſment upon each individual. Some cities obtain from the aſſembly the title of hundred, and have a magiſtracy of their own: the juriſdiction of cities however is not confined within the limits of their own walls, as in Europe, but rather reſembles that of the preſent municipalities of France, extending, according to circumſtances, to a greater or leſs diſtance.

WILMINGTON, though not the capital of the ſtate of Delaware, or of the county of Newcaſtle in which it is ſituated, is the moſt populous city in that ſtate. The population is eſtimated at about four thouſand five hundred inhabitants, excluſive of the French, who have arrived from the different

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iſlands, and have increaſed the population within theſe three years by three or four hundred. Wilmington, like Philadelphia, and many other towns in America, does not cover all the ground marked out for it; the houſes, though almoſt all built in ſtreets, do not join each other; on the contrary, there are fields of a conſiderable ſize betwixt ſeveral of them. They are, in general, handſome ſubſtantial brick buildings, and are almoſt all of them built in the Engliſh ſtyle. The town contains about four ſquare miles, excluſive of a tract of land not yet built upon.

BRANDYWINE MILLS.

At the entrance of Wilmington is ſituated BRANDYWINE, a place which contains the greateſt part of the houſes belonging to the hundred of Brandywine. This village, or rather this hundred, takes its name from the creek which runs through it, and whoſe ſource is forty miles from the Delaware in the mountains of Pennſylvania. It is ſufficiently rapid, and contains water enough to turn,

turn, in its courſe, from ſixty to eighty mills, almoſt all of different deſcriptions, ſuch as paper, powder, tobacco, ſawing, fulling, and flour, mills, the latter of which are moſt numerous. The principal ones are ſituated near the bridge over the creek. All the operations of the mills are performed by water, from the unlading the ſloops which bring the corn, to the complete finiſhing of the flour. Thus the ſacks are hoiſted into the granary, the flour is ſifted, is ground, and bolted, without the leaſt manual labour. The mills are ſimilar to thoſe at London bridge in England, and thoſe which the brothers *Perrier* have conſtructed at Paris near the *Gros-caillou*. The latter are firſt ſet in motion by a ſteam engine, but as the ſecondary motion is the principal, the mills of London and Paris give a ſufficiently exact idea of theſe of Brandywine. There is, however, in the proceſs from the grinding to the bolting, a difference in favour of the former. At London and Paris the flour when ground falls into troughs, and is afterwards conveyed by the labourer to another part of the mill, where it is ſpread, and turned

turned by the hand to cool it before it is taken to be bolted: ſuch at leaſt was the proceſs when I left Europe.

At Brandywine the flour falls as it is ground upon a wooden roller, armed with little detached wings, which are ſo arranged as to form a ſcrew. This roller, fixed in a trough, is inclined towards a bin in ſuch a manner that it ſerves as a conductor to the flour, which would deſcend too rapidly if it fell perpendicularly, and too ſlowly and at intervals if it were merely conducted by a ſimple inclined plane. A chain of ſmall troughs, about three or four cubic inches long, dips into the bin, which receives the flour. This chain is incloſed in long perpendicular wooden caſes. It turns upon two pivots; one of which is placed in the bin where the little troughs fill themſelves with the flour which is depoſited there; and the other on the fourth floor, where the ſame little troughs empty themſelves, and thence deſcend empty to recommence their perpetual operations.

The flour, conveyed above by theſe troughs, falls on an inclined circular floor,

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in the centre of which are ſeveral holes; it is there ſpread about by a rake as large as the floor, the teeth of which are ſo placed as to conduct the flour towards the holes, through which it falls, cooled, into the bolters. Theſe bolters are alſo different from thoſe uſed in France and England, as the ſtuff which covers them, and through which the flour paſſes, is a fine ſilk, very cloſely woven. The millers aſſert, that notwithſtanding they pay ſix dollars an ell for this ſtuff, it is cheaper than the common bolting cloth, to which it is likewiſe to be preferred for giving a more beautiful colour to the flour. Theſe bolters will laſt five years in conſtant uſe without any repair: about twelve ells of ſtuff is ſufficient to cover them. Hitherto the ſtuff has been brought from Holland; but a manufactory of it is about to be eſtabliſhed at Wilmington. Each pair of mills is furniſhed with its winged roller, its chain and troughs, its inclined circular floor, and its bolters. This mechaniſm for conveying the flour from the mill-ſtone to the bolter was invented five years ago by Mr. Evans of Philadelphia, who

who obtained a patent for the invention, which bears his name. There are three pair of mills, in this place, with that which we have viſited, that is to ſay, ſix mills and twelve mill-ſtones. I explain myſelf thus minutely to prevent miſtakes. There are ſome parts of the machinery of theſe mills, however, ſuch as the wheels, the trundle-heads, &c. which are not ſo well executed as in thoſe of Europe.

The proprietor of the mill which I particularly examined is a quaker, of the name of TATNALL. His ſon-in-law, Thomas Lea, took upon himſelf the trouble of ſhewing me the whole of it. He is alſo a quaker, about thirty years of age: he is a handſome, chearful, active, man. Like a true American patriot, he perſuades himſelf, that nowhere is any undertaking executed ſo well, or with ſo much ingenuity, as in America; that the ſpirit, invention, and genius, of Europe, are in a ſtate of decrepitude (theſe are his words), whilſt the genius of America, full of vigour, is arriving at perfection.

Theſe opinions are not much to be wondered at in Thomas Lea, who is merely a good

good miller; they ought rather to excite pleaſure as the ebullitions of a patriotic enthuſiaſm, the indulgence of which is not likely to be prejudicial to him, as it does not prevent him from adopting all the good inventions of Europe, by which he may improve his mill. The ſame error, however, is diſcoverable in almoſt all the Americans—in legiſlators and magiſtrates, in whom it is more baneful —as well as in millers.

Thomas Lea is a moſt candid and obliging man; he anſwered all my queſtions with great politeneſs, and voluntarily imparted much information, for which I could not have taken the liberty to aſk. He is in partnerſhip with his father-in-law: their mill is not employed for the public, but ſolely in their own private ſervice. It is called a flour manufactory. They purchaſe their corn in Virginia, Maryland, and in the ſtate of New-York, which is brought from thence in two of their own ſhips; they convert it into flour; and the ſame ſloops carry it back again to Philadelphia, where it is ſold for exportation. They grind about one hundred thouſand buſhels of corn yearly.

The whole labour of the mill is performed by ſix men only; whoſe chief employment is to place the flour in barrels: their wages are from ſix to eight dollars per month, with waſhing, board, and clothing. There are, beſides, twenty-four men employed by this manufactory for working the veſſels, and making the barrels. The coopers work by the piece; they can earn a dollar per day, but board and clothe themſelves. TATNALL does not employ any negroes, as they do not work with the whites; but are ſlow, and bad workmen. The laws of the ſtate of Delaware permit ſlavery, but the quakers, as is well known, do not make uſe of the permiſſion.

Almoſt all the labourers employed in theſe mills are foreigners, the greateſt part of whom are Engliſh or Iriſh. The millers complain of their drunkenneſs and indolence, and would prefer Frenchmen as more induſtrious and ſober, if they could be procured; which they very much deſire. The corn trade is in a more flouriſhing ſtate at preſent than it has ever been; at leaſt wheat fetches a higher price. The common price

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of a bushel of wheat, in time of peace, is seven shillings. In January 1795 it rose from ten to ten and six pence, and during the eighteen succeeding months, even as high as thirteen or fourteen shillings. It has since fallen, but to nothing near its former level. The bushel weighs sixty pounds. Five bushels yield a barrel of fine flour, containing a hundred and ninety-six pounds, besides three other inferior sorts of meal. The price of the finest flour is eight dollars and a half; of the second quality, eight dollars; of the third, seven dollars; and of the fourth, five dollars. The bran is sold at one eighth of a dollar per bushel, containing thirty-five pounds: it is sent to Philadelphia.

The following is a statement of the produce of one hundred bushels of wheat as given me by Thomas Lea:—nineteen barrels of fine flour; two barrels of flour of the second quality; three barrels of the third quality; and thirty bushels of bran. Total; five thousand nine hundred and ten pounds: waste ninety pounds.

The wheat of the eastern part of Maryland produces the finest flour, on account of

the goodneſs of the ſoil and the quickneſs of its growth: but this flour is not ſo heavy as that of other parts; that of New-York for inſtance, though inferior in quality, is good, and is heavier, becauſe the grain is longer in ripening. The corn of the province of Delaware is nearly of the ſame quality as that of Maryland. Large quantities of Indian corn are likewiſe ground in theſe mills, of which they make bread and cakes: in ſeveral parts of the United States they uſe no other ſort of bread; in ſome parts it is even preferred without any motives of œconomy, as it is eſteemed by the faculty as the moſt wholeſome.

It is uſed to fatten poultry and cattle, and is exported in great quantities to the Weſt-Indies. As this grain contains more moiſture than other bread corn, it is dried in a kiln before it is ſent to the mill. A buſhel coſts at preſent five ſhillings; it weighs fifty-ſix pounds, and produces fifty-four pounds of flour. The proceſs of bolting ſeparates the fine from the inferior ſort of maize-flour, but the latter is reground and mixed with the other. One third of a barrel ſells for three

three dollars. The bran, which is in very small quantities, is not taken from the flour. This information I received from the worthy Thomas Lea. There are eleven other mills near his; four of them are very large, the others much ſmaller. The ice in this river ſometimes ſtops the mills for two months, at other times only three weeks, according to the ſeverity of the winter. At this time the millers ſettle their yearly accounts; which is eaſily done, as wherever their factors buy their corn they pay for it in ready money, and wherever they ſell their flour they are paid for it on delivery by a bill at ſixty or ninety days ſight, which they immediately diſcount with the bank. During this period they employ no labourers, whoſe pay whilſt in employ is ſo high that they experience no difficulty in ſupporting themſelves during its ſuſpenſion: in general, after a few years' ſervice, they are enabled to purchaſe lands in the newly-inhabited parts of the country.

Another miller, who is likewiſe a quaker, and who has as large a mill as Mr. Tatnall, has eſtabliſhed, about a year ſince, a manufactory for printing linens; the tubs, preſſes,

&c. of which are worked by the machinery of a mill. This manufactory, though ſo lately eſtabliſhed, employs from twelve to fifteen hands at the laths, beſides about a dozen young girls, who work at home to fill up thoſe parts of the pattern with a bruſh which have eſcaped in the printing, or which cannot be otherwiſe finiſhed. Almoſt all the workmen are Engliſh or Iriſh; their wages are a dollar a day, without any proviſion. The work appeared to be well done: almoſt all the linens which they print are brought from India, and are reſold to the merchants of Philadelphia.

A cotton manufactory is now eſtabliſhing at Wilmington. The implements and workmen are already provided; the whole of the machinery for carding, ſpinning, &c. is conſtructed on Arkwright's plan. This eſtabliſhment is carried on by one of the richeſt men in the town. The number of workmen is at preſent only fifteen, but fifty more are expected: they are all Engliſhmen. The implements appear to be very well made.

I likewiſe viſited the manufactory for making

making *bolting ſilk*. The labourers are Iriſhmen; as well as the proprietor. This manufactory employs at preſent only three workmen: the ſilks are made to ſuit the different qualities of flour.

Though this manufactory has only been eſtabliſhed a year, it is a profitable concern, and when more extenſively known it will be much more ſo, as theſe ſilks are cheaper than thoſe ſent from Holland, and laſt longer, as thoſe millers who uſe them have experienced. In a country like America where there are ſo many mills, the advantages of theſe bolters muſt be very great; in fact, almoſt all the millers uſe them in preference to linen cloths for bolting, as well as Thomas Lea. They are ſo uſeful, that an act of parliament has been made in England, to permit the importation of them into that country. The ſilk is brought from Georgia: if the Americans would plant mulberry trees, and raiſe ſilk-worms, this ſpecies of manufacture would be a ſource of great riches to the country *.

MR.

* It is doubtful whether the rearing of ſilk-worms can be profitable to America for ſome time to come, for reaſons

MR. GILPIN'S PAPER-MILL.

I have ſaid that Brandywine-creek, in its ſhort courſe of ſeven or eight miles through the ſtate of Delaware, turns about ſixty mills of different ſorts. Among theſe I have viſited the paper-mill of Mr. Gilpin, a reſpectable merchant at Philadelphia, and with whom I am intimately acquainted. This mill is ſituated at the diſtance of two miles and a half from Wilmington, on a truly romantic ſpot; for the word *romantic* appears to me to convey the beſt idea of a view rather gloomy, wild and uncultivated, yet pleaſing. Such is the ſituation of this mill, and eſpecially of the proprietor's reſidence. The creek at this place paſſes between two very high mountains, almoſt covered with wood, and although ſo much pent up, turns a great number of wheels without any noiſe: its breadth is about ſixty fathoms. Its courſe is

which the author himſelf has mentioned on many other occaſions: ſuch a proceſs requires much manual labour, and too many hands for a country where the population is ſmall, and labour conſequently dear.—*Tranſlator.*

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impeded by a great number of rocks, few of which appear above the ſurface. Parts of the mountains are alſo covered with rocks, which ſpring up amidſt the wood. Theſe rocks are of the ſame nature as thoſe which are ſeen throughout the country, particularly about Cheſter: they are formed of a ſtone like that found in the foreſt of Fontainbleau. Some acres of land about the houſe are cleared, and laid out in meadows. The houſe is ſituated ſufficiently high to command a view of the creek of Brandywine for five hundred fathoms, when it is loſt among the trees, and is again viſible at the diſtance of three miles, where it joins the river Chriſtiana, which empties itſelf immediately into the Delaware. This view, which is wild and rugged in ſome parts, contraſted with a pleaſing ſoftneſs in others, muſt be ſtill more pleaſing in ſummer: it is, however, inferior to thoſe that are to be ſeen in the Voſges; to ſay nothing of thoſe of the Alps.

The paper-mill is below the houſe. There are two warehouſes adjoining, where many labourers are conſtantly employed.

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The rags are pounded by vertical wheels, the bands of which are about ſix inches wide, armed with ſharp blades of iron, which drive the rags againſt ſix other blades, placed lengthways at the bottom of the great vat in which the wheel turns. I have deſcribed thus much of the proceſs, as it is performed in another manner both in France and Holland. The other parts are performed nearly in the ſame manner as in thoſe countries, but the manufactory is not yet brought to an equal perfection. The rags are not brought to the mill as in France, by people who collect them in the neighbourhood, as the ſmall population of America will not admit of ſuch induſtry. They are bought up by agents in the moſt populous towns, as far as three hundred miles diſtant, and are ſent by water to Wilmington; from whence they are brought in carts to the mill, as Brandywine-creek ceaſes to be navigable above the bridge which leads to Wilmington. The conſumption of rags in Mr. Gilpin's mill is one hundred thouſand pounds weight a year, which makes one thouſand reams of different ſorts of paper. The price of rags is from

from three to nine dollars the hundred weight, according to the quality; the average price is about four dollars and a third. The rags are divided into nine different ſorts at the manufactory, of which are made various papers, from vellum to coarſe brown. The vellum letter-paper is ſold for four dollars a ream; it is neither ſo white nor ſo well moulded as the fine European vellum paper; it is, however, a beautiful and good paper.

The large paper for merchants' account books, though not vellum, ſells as high as thirteen dollars a ream. Mr. Gilpin's partner, *Mr. Giſin*, who was ſo polite as to ſhow me the manufactory, is an Iriſhman, and ſuperintends the buſineſs himſelf, being well acquainted with the whole proceſs. The mill employs conſtantly twenty-ſix or twenty-ſeven hands. Seven of the beſt workmen are employed at the vat, and the mould; their pay is from four to ſeven dollars a week. They are all Iriſhmen. The other inferior workmen earn three dollars, and the women one dollar, a week. Notwithſtanding there are five other paper mills

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in the ſtate of Delaware, and from eighty to ninety in the province of Pennſylvania; yet Mr. Gifin aſſured me there was not much difficulty in procuring workmen: though an Iriſhman himſelf, he complains as much of a want of ſobriety in his countrymen as the millers of Brandywine. This manufactory is, no doubt, very lucrative, as Mr. Gilpin intends to build a new paper-mill about three hundred fathoms below the other. The paper manufactured here is ſent in great quantities to Philadelphia, and retailed to the merchants there. The ſmall mills diſpoſe of their paper in another manner; they ſend it to Philadelphia in carts, and ſell it about the ſtreets in quires or reams.

DOCTOR WARTON, AND HIS FARM.

From the mill I croſſed the river and the woods to dine with Doctor Warton, who reſides about a mile from Wilmington, on the road to Philadelphia. The moſt common trees in theſe woods are the oak, the cheſnut, and the hiccory. Cedars known in Europe by the name of Virginian are likewiſe

wiſe found in abundance; alſo Scotch pine trees, Lord's pines, and firs. The cedar wood is commonly uſed for ſupporters to the rails with which the fields are encloſed. The houſes are alſo covered with planks of cedar. Doctor Warton, who was educated with the jeſuits of St. Omer in France, but has ſince become a miniſter of the Engliſh church, is a very worthy man. He ſpent ſome years in England, from whence he brought much agricultural knowledge, with a ſmall mixture of prejudice. He ſpeaks French, he is very obliging, and is much eſteemed by his neighbours. He occupies a farm, which he has taken for fifteen years, ten of which are unexpired.

There were eight of us at dinner: every thing which we uſed was the produce of his own farm; even the table cloth, which was fabricated of the flax grown on his own grounds, and the table, which was made of a very beautiful wood, cut on his own eſtate, as ſmooth and as finely veined as mahogany. I obtained the greater part of my agricultural information of this country from Doctor Warton. He rents a farm of one hundred and

and fifty acres at two hundred and ten dollars; he lets off fifty acres at one hundred and thirty dollars, and thus retains the reſt himſelf at eighty dollars. He informed me that he had gained this year ſeven hundred and forty-ſix dollars, including thoſe articles which he had uſed, and which he muſt otherwiſe have bought. He has four oxen, which are ſufficient for the whole work of the farm. He has alſo eight cows, and two horſes for his carriage. Three negroes are conſtantly employed in his farm and ſtables. He does not hire additional labourers above twenty-five days in the year. He has four negreſſes, two of whom are employed in the houſe, the other two ſpin, make linen and cloth, and work in the field when it is neceſſary. The negroes and negreſſes eat bread made of Indian corn; at noon they are allowed ſome meat; but on the whole receive leſs nouriſhment than would be requiſite for white people in this country; and are therefore maintained much cheaper. The doctor ſays that he is as well ſatisfied with their work as he could be with that of the whites which are to be found here. He

dungs

dungs his lands tolerably well with about two hundred ſmall cart loads of dung obtained yearly from his own cattle. He dungs his grounds in general before he ſows maize; which he ſows in trenches eight feet diſtant one way, and one foot the other, contrary to the general practice of the country. He alſo turns up the larger intervals with the plough, and the ſmaller with the hoe: the latter work is done by the negreſſes. He frequently ſows maize two following years: after the maize, corn, and clover after the corn, in the ſpring. The clover remains for two, three, or even four, years: after clover he ſows maize again, and ſo on in ſucceſſion. This is his general practice, though it is ſometimes varied.

The neighbouring farmers do not follow as regular a ſyſtem as Doctor Warton; the ſcarcity of labourers being a great obſtacle to the eſtabliſhment of a good ſyſtem of agriculture in this country, where its true principles are unknown. The farms are in general ſmall and ill-cultivated; they receive little or no manure, and are in every reſpect badly managed. Some Engliſh farmers have recently

recently ſettled in this neighbourhood, and have taken farms upon long leaſes. They will doubtleſs make conſiderable improvements in agriculture. Within theſe two years ſeveral perſons have collected the weeds from the creeks which flow through their land, have mixed them with dung, and thus make a manure, which, though they do not allow it ſufficient time to rot before they uſe it, conſiderably improves the land. Turnips, carrots, and cabbages, are grown only in gardens, merely for the kitchen.

Doctor Warton, who underſtands the cultivation and management of maize, prefers it to the above articles, as a more certain produce; the leaves, green or dry, are fodder for the cattle, and the corn when ground into flour is, he ſays, more fattening than any other food. This opinion, however, is not founded upon experience and compariſon, but rather appears to be the offspring of a prejudice for a particular ſyſtem of agriculture, and the natural indolence of a man ill-diſpoſed to alterations. I conceive it is very eaſy to prove, that a more ſkilful ſyſtem would

would yield more dung, and would be more productive, without any additional labour.

Eight hundred perches ſquare of maize produce a ton weight of leaves, and two ton of tops. Every hundred perches ſquare, not dunged, yields from twelve to eighteen buſhels of grain; if well dunged, it yields thirty-five: I ſpeak of this part of the country, and of thoſe farms which are generally cultivated in this manner, eſpecially that of Doctor Warton. He plants potatoes between the rows of maize, and gathers by this means two hundred buſhels: they are uſually ſold at three ſhillings and ſix pence per buſhel, but this year fetched from five ſhillings to five ſhillings and ſix pence. He fattens yearly from ten to twelve oxen for ſale. As he brews his own beer, makes his own cider, and manufactures his own linen, one part of his farm is ſown with flax, others are planted with hops, and others with apple trees.

Such is the cuſtom of the country, and ſo much do the farmers pride themſelves upon its preſervation, that they will not purchaſe any thing for the uſe of their families, which

they can make themſelves. Pride is the beſt colour which they can give to the impoſſibility of doing otherwiſe; on any other ground the ſpeculation is a bad one, as by multiplying in this manner their plantations, and the labours of the houſehold, the divided profits are conſequently ſmaller, and their average leſs advantageous. Time will rectify this prejudice.

The ſheep of this country produce good wool, fine and ſhort, but the fleece ſeldom weighs more than three pounds: it is worth a dollar and a half. The ſheep have long legs, and very large bones. The breed might be much improved by a little attention, of which it is well deſerving.

Some proprietors, who do not tenant their own farms, let them for a ſhare of the produce. The uſual method is to let them for half the profits, if the farmer and proprietor furniſh jointly the cattle and ſeed; or for a third, if no ſtock is advanced. This proportion ſometimes varies according to the value of the ground, or the addreſs of the proprietor or farmer. Doctor Warton obſerved, that at Wilmington any man, who knows

knows how to purchaſe, might make ſix per cent in caſh of his capital, by letting his lands as ſoon as he buys them. The cattle are very ſoon fattened with the maize flour; from eight to ten buſhels are ſufficient to fatten an ox. I ſaw a pig at one of the mills on the Brandywine, which the miller aſſured me was of an ordinary breed, and which was fed entirely upon maize, that weighed ſeven hundred weight.

The land near the Delaware conſiſts of rich meadows, with a good ſoil to the depth of thirty feet; it lets as high as ſix dollars and a half per acre, and ſells as high as one hundred and ſixty dollars per acre.

The hay is depoſited in barns. The farmers are ignorant of the method of making ſtacks, they therefore ſay that the rain penetrates them and ſpoils the hay; though leſs rain falls here, even including the ſnow, than in any part of England. Some farmers, however, heap up their crops into very imperfect ſtacks, by which means they are certainly often ſpoiled. Such is the ſubſtance of the information which I obtained from Doctor Warton. The details which I have

entered into relative to the ſtate of manufacture and agriculture are not intereſting of themſelves to an European, yet, conſidering them as connected with the ſtate of population, civilization, and all the other circumſtances of this country, and as affording a compariſon with the old world, they poſſibly will not be found unintereſting.

BRANDYWINE-RIVER, AND WILMINGTON.

I have already noticed Brandywine; its ſituation is delightful. There are about fifty houſes built near the river, which ruſhes rapidly over large fragments of rock; and ſwelling into many channels turns mills of all deſcriptions in every direction. The banks of this river, both above and below the village, chiefly laid out in meadows, and covered with cattle; a bridge, over which travellers are conſtantly paſſing; the continual buſtle of the manufactories, with houſes of various forms and materials, built on different parts of two hills, which bound the river;—render this view extremely pleaſant.

The

The port of Wilmington is upon the Chriſtiana: there are three or four veſſels built there every year, either for ſale or for the trade that is carried on there, which employs twelve or thirteen ſhips of various ſizes. This port is two miles from the Delaware. Several ſloops are conſtantly employed in the coaſting trade carried on with Philadelphia.

Wilmington market is ſupplied with proviſions from the neighbourhood. It is held twice a-week: it is leſs than that at Philadelphia, which it reſembles in its market-place, in the nature of its regulations, and in the ſpecies of proviſions ſold there. Every neceſſary is to be procured there, and no-where elſe in this part of the country.

Freedom of religion is as unreſtrained in the ſtate of Delaware as in that of Pennſylvania. The expences of public worſhip are paid by thoſe who approve it. The letting of pews is one principal ſource of the church revenue, and, with ſome donations of land by individuals, is ſufficient to defray all expences, including the miniſter's ſalary. The preſbyterians are the moſt numerous ſect;

and next to them, the quakers: the wiſdom of the latter, who being the richeſt have the moſt influence, oppoſed the eſtabliſhment of a democratic ſociety at Wilmington. There is one, however, at Newcaſtle, chiefly compoſed of the inhabitants of Wilmington.

This town is at preſent the aſylum of about forty families from the colonies of St. Domingo, moſt of whom have ſaved ſomething from the wreck of their fortunes, but whom misfortune has not inſtructed either in politics or domeſtic œconomy. On their arrival a ſubſcription was opened for the moſt needy of them, and a conſiderable ſum was raiſed, when it was diſcovered by the complaints of thoſe whoſe diſtreſſes entitled them to relief, that ſome men known to be in good circumſtances had applied for a ſhare. The eyes of the ſubſcribers being thus opened, the ſubſcription was ſtopped and the French name diſgraced. General DIKISON, a rich inhabitant of Wilmington, formerly governor of Pennſylvania, depoſited four hundred dollars with Mr. *Thouſard*, to be diſtributed among the moſt needy of the ſufferers. It could not have been placed in better hands; notwithſtanding

withſtanding which, jealouſy excited ſome unjuſt murmurs againſt him, which though treated with contempt by himſelf, have not failed to promote ſome ſcandal. Several of the St. Domingo families who have preſerved large fortunes, think that Mr. Dikiſon is not ſufficiently generous; yet will not themſelves give one farthing to their diſtreſſed countrymen.

Among thoſe who have eſcaped the diſaſters of St. Domingo, there are ſome, who, revolting at the idea of receiving gratuitous aid, labour with great induſtry to obtain a bare ſubſiſtence: but it muſt be confeſſed, that almoſt all theſe belong to Old France, and have not long ſettled in the colony. The neceſſaries of life are cheaper by two fifths at Wilmington than at Philadelphia: a family may live here very well upon eight hundred dollars a year. The plots of ground allotted for building houſes contain nearly two acres; and let at from four to ſix dollars a year. With a little dunging they will produce forty hundred weight of hay in two crops. The cows are turned in after the ſecond crop till winter. In ſummer they are

driven on the road-ſide to graze, and are fetched home twice a day to be milked. The breed of cattle, although not ſo fine as that of New-England, is good and large; but rather too long in the body and legs: a little care would perfect the breed, and render the cattle of a ſhape and ſize proper for fattening. The poor-houſe of Wilmington is built on an eminence; it is a very large and handſome building: the poor of the county of Newcaſtle only are received there; who are extremely well treated. According to a moderate calculation the number of poor conſtantly maintained there amounts to ſixty. The expences of the houſe are eſtimated at about ſix thouſand dollars; the expence of each pauper is conſequently one hundred dollars: upon one half of which ſum he might ſupport himſelf. In almoſt every part of England, as well as of America, the poor-houſes are an object of pride and oſtentation to the people. They doubtleſs relieve the overſeers of the poor from much of that trouble which they would otherwiſe have in diſtributing relief with juſtice and diſcretion to the poor at their own homes.

Yet

Yet theſe eſtabliſhments by no means conſtitute the beſt method of aſſiſting the poor, whether they are conſidered in a political or moral point of view; or as they reſpect the principles of œconomy or real benevolence.

The boundaries of eſtates in this ſmall ſtate are perhaps the ſource of more law-ſuits than any-where elſe, as in the lands formerly given to the Penn family, and to Lord Baltimore; the boundaries are not preciſely aſcertained, nor are the deeds of gift clearly worded.

Mr. Vining informed me, that his ſeat in Congreſs deprives him of at leaſt three thouſand dollars, which he might gain by his profeſſion as an advocate, notwithſtanding he undertakes ſome buſineſs even during the ſitting of Congreſs, which the vicinity of Philadelphia enables him to tranſact with eaſe.

The advantageous ſituation of the ſtate of Delaware for commerce, agriculture, and manufactures, ought naturally to increaſe its population. Half the ground however is not yet cleared: four-fifths of the county of Suſſex, the moſt ſouthern of the three, remains yet

yet uncleared. The woods are certainly in ſome places filled with water, but with little pains and expence nearly the whole of theſe grounds might be drained, and doubtleſs would be very productive; as all thoſe that have been drained yield great crops. The want of hands is an obſtacle which prevents any attempts of this nature in this country of ſlavery; and induces a number of proprietors of woods to believe that their ground is more profitable to them in its preſent ſtate. They ſtrip their woods to ſupply Philadelphia; and as there are in this ſpot many pine-trees and cedars, they ſell them at a large profit, eſpecially as they have the advantage of conveying them by water. Mr. Well, member of the legiſlature, and proprietor of twenty thouſand acres of wood on the borders of the county of Suſſex, boaſted in my preſence of the revenue ariſing from his eſtate, which is about five thouſand four hundred dollars a year. Of theſe twenty thouſand acres, only ten thouſand are planted with cedars. I demonſtrated to him, that allowing all this profit to ariſe entirely from the ten thouſand acres of cedars, even in that caſe,

each

each acre is worth only half a dollar a year; which is nearly the ſame value to which the ſalt-tax, and the uncultivated ſtate of the land, reduced ſeveral of the foreſts of Lorraine about ten years ago. He was ſtruck with the calculation, which he could not contradict; but as his neighbours do not draw ſo much wealth from their woods as he does from his, he is ſatisfied with that difference. In every ſenſe this ſyſtem is pernicious; it deſtroys the growth of the woods, and it would reduce this moderate income in the courſe of forty or fifty years to nothing, if it were not to be ſuppoſed, that before that period the population of the ſtate will increaſe, the proprietors grow wiſer, and cultivation in conſequence become more general.

Within theſe fifteen months a bank has been eſtabliſhed at Wilmington, and incorporated by an act of the legiſlature of the ſtate. The capital is two hundred thouſand dollars, in one thouſand ſhares of two hundred dollars each. The legiſlature has reſerved the power of adding two hundred and fifty ſhares more. This bank appears to be of no real utility, at leaſt there is no apparent neceſſity

ceſſity for it—except to the Brandywine millers—the flour-trade being the only branch of commerce that is carried on to any extent in this ſtate. It will, however, have the ſame effects as all the ſmall banks eſtabliſhed on the continent;—it will increaſe the means of ſpeculating ſtock-jobbers and adventurers; and will ſooner or later, like moſt others, prove pernicious to the cauſe of morality, and deſtructive to thoſe whoſe ſpeculations are at preſent aided by its diſcounts and the paper-money which it iſſues. The dividend on the two laſt half years was ſix per cent, that is to ſay, twelve per cent per annum: this was the firſt dividend made.

STATE OF DELAWARE, ITS CONSTITUTION AND LAWS.

The ſtate of Delaware is the ſmalleſt of all the United States, as its greateſt length is only ninety-two miles, and breadth from thirteen to thirty miles: it was colonized in 1628 by the Swedes, and formed part of New-Sweden, which is now called New-Jerſey. The Dutch took it in 1656. After it

it was conquered by the Duke of York, in 1683, he ſold to William Penn, founder of Pennſylvania, the town of Newcaſtle, and twelve miles of the ſurrounding country. William Penn afterward added to this the country which extends as far as *Cape Henlopen*. It was then divided, as it is at preſent, into three counties; Newcaſtle, Kent, and Suſſex; and became part of Pennſylvania. In 1701 William Penn ceded them to *Edward Shippen*, *Phineas Pembleton*, *Samuel Carpenter*, *Griffiths Owen*, *Caleb Puiſey*, and *Thomas Story*, who of courſe became the proprietors: when, however, this part of the country, though under the governor of Pennſylvania, obtained the privilege of a ſeparate aſſembly, it took the name of the three counties of the Delaware. When the troubles in America broke out, the three counties of the Delaware ſeparated themſelves entirely from the ſtate of Pennſylvania, and aſſumed the name of the ſtate of the Delaware. It was only in 1770 that the limits of the ſtates of Delaware and Maryland were finally ſettled by the proprietors of the Delaware, and Lord Baltimore proprietor of Maryland; whoſe determination

determination was not ſanctioned by an act of legiſlature till 1775.

The new conſtitution of the ſtate of Delaware was named in 1776, and reviſed in 1790. It divides the legiſlative power between two houſes of parliament. The houſe of repreſentatives is compoſed of twenty-one members; ſeven for each county; who are elected annually. The qualifications neceſſary for a member are;—that he muſt be twenty-four years of age, muſt poſſeſs an independent income, muſt have reſided in the ſtate three years, and in the county for which he is elected, one year. The number of ſenators is nine; three for each county: the ſenators muſt be twenty-ſeven years old; in poſſeſſion of an independent income of two hundred acres, or a fortune known to amount to one thouſand pounds ſterling. The ſame conditions as to reſidence are required of them as of the members of the houſe of repreſentatives. The ſenators are elected for three years; one of whom retires every year by rotation. The qualifications of an elector are, a reſidence of two years in the county, and the payment of taxes for at leaſt ſix months.

months. Money-bills may be brought in to either houſe. A majority of two thirds of the repreſentatives may impeach any of the officers of the ſtate, and a majority of two thirds of the ſenate may in ſuch caſes pronounce judgment. The general aſſembly have the power of increaſing the number of repreſentatives and ſenators, whenever two thirds of each houſe agree that it is neceſſary; but the number of ſenators muſt never be leſs than one-third of the repreſentatives, nor greater than one-half.

The governor of the ſtate is choſen by the ſame electors, who chooſe the ſenate and houſe of repreſentatives. He is elected for three years, and cannot be re-choſen until after the expiration of that term. He has the appointment of all officers excepting thoſe of treaſurer, ſheriffs, and coroners, who are nominated by the aſſembly. He has the privilege of pardoning offences, except where the ſentence has been pronounced in conſequence of impeachment. He muſt be above thirty years of age; muſt have reſided in the United States more than twelve years; and in that particular ſtate more than ſix.

He

He is aſſiſted in his government by the ſpeaker of the ſenate, or in his abſence by the ſpeaker of the houſe of repreſentatives. The judicial power is compoſed of a court of chancery, and ſeveral inferior tribunals.

The judges are nominated by the governor, and retain their places during good behaviour: they are ſubject to impeachment, whenever two thirds of the houſe of repreſentatives and two thirds of the ſenate deem it neceſſary, agreeable to the forms already noticed. In caſes where there is not ſufficient grounds for an impeachment, the governor may diſplace them on the repreſentation of two thirds of each houſe. The juſtices of the peace are appointed by the governor for ſeven years. The legiſlative aſſembly in the ſtate of the Delaware vote for the election of preſident and vice-preſident of the United States.

The population of the ſtate of Delaware was eſtimated in the year 1790 at only fifty thouſand and ninety-four inhabitants, of which number eight thouſand eight hundred and eighty-ſeven were ſlaves; and in conſequence the ſtate ſends but one member to the

the Congreſs of the United States. There is no doubt but at the next numeration there will be more than a ſufficient number of inhabitants to entitle it to ſend two members to Congreſs.

The militia of the ſtate is formed of one brigade from each county: each brigade is compoſed of three regiments. The Preſbyterians are the moſt numerous and powerful ſect in the ſtate: they have twenty-four churches. The Epiſcopalians have fourteen; the Anabaptiſts ſeven: beſides which, there are a great number of Quakers and Methodiſts throughout the country, eſpecially in the counties of Kent and Suſſex. The exports of the ſtate of Delaware amounted in 1791 to the ſum of one hundred and ninety thouſand eight hundred and ſeventy-eight dollars—in 1792, to one hundred and thirty-three thouſand nine hundred and ſeventy-two—in 1793, to ninety-three thouſand five hundred and fifty-nine—in 1794, to two hundred and ſeven thouſand nine hundred and eighty-five—in 1795, to one hundred and fifty-eight thouſand and forty-one—and in 1796, to two hundred and one thouſand

one hundred and forty-two dollars. The commerce of the ſtate of Delaware is chiefly in corn and wood. The only cuſtom-houſe in this diſtrict is at Wilmington. The greateſt part of the flour made there is bought by the merchants of Philadelphia, for exportation.

The taxes in the ſtate of Delaware have hitherto been rather improperly levied. The total amount of the ſum neceſſary for the exigencies of the ſtate was divided into twenty-one parts: the county of Newcaſtle paid eight; Kent, ſeven; and Suſſex, ſix. The counties are divided into hundreds. Each townſhip elected annually a collector; who being furniſhed with a liſt of perſons liable to be taxed, aſſeſſed them according to the vague eſtimation of their incomes, without paying any regard to the nature of ſuch incomes. Uncleared land, perſons under the age of twenty-one, thoſe who had juſt finiſhed an apprenticeſhip, and ſlaves who had juſt obtained their freedom were exempted from taxes. Poor people having many children were taxed in a ſmaller proportion; but their incomes were always eſtimated at twenty dollars. Bachelors, whether they had or had

not

not any known property, were taxed as having an income from twenty-four to forty-eight dollars. A court of appeal, elected for three years, one-third of which was changed every year, decided upon the complaints of ſuch as thought themſelves ſurcharged. The commiſſioners who compoſed this court received a dollar and one third for every day on which they were employed. The collectors received ſeven and a half per cent on the ſum collected. As the amount of all the ſtate taxes for the counties and hundreds of the ſtate of Delaware did not exceed one or two per cent on the fortunes of each individual, no body murmured; but this mode of aſſeſſment was not the leſs diſgraceful to a free country, for it was arbitrary.

During the laſt ſeſſions the aſſembly attempted to wipe away this ſtain: it was accordingly decreed, "that in future the aſſeſſors ſhould make out a ſtatement of all the taxable property in each hundred; that the capital ariſing from land ſhould be eſtimated at one hundred pounds value for every eight pounds of rent; that the capital ariſing from

houſes or eſtates in towns or villages ſhould be eſtimated at one hundred pounds for every twelve pounds of rent; and that the rents both in town and country ſhould be taken at their real value:

"That ſlaves of both ſexes, from the age of eight to fourteen years, ſhould be valued at from twelve to fourteen pounds; and male ſlaves from the age of fourteen to thirty-ſix at from fifteen to thirty-five pounds:

"That ſlaves under eight years of age, male ſlaves above forty-five, and females above thirty-ſix, ſhould be taxed in leſſer proportions; but the male ſlaves who are artiſans always in proportion to the value of their labour:

"And, that plate ſhould be eſtimated at eight ſhillings and ſix pence per ounce; and laſtly, that all other perſonal property not expreſsly exempted from taxation, ſhould be aſſeſſed in proportion to its value in ready money, according to the opinion of the aſſeſſors."

This new mode of taxation, which fixes the principles on which the aſſeſſment is to be

be made, ſtill leaves too much to the diſcretion of the aſſeſſors: it is not yet carried into effect.

The annual amount of the taxes varies very little in the ſtate of Delaware; it averages from thirteen to fifteen thouſand dollars. The ſtate has no ſurplus treaſure, but is free from debt.

On the general diviſion of the expences of the war, made by the commiſſioners of which I have ſo often ſpoken, the ſtate of Delaware was indebted to the United States ſix hundred and twelve thouſand four hundred and twenty-eight dollars. This ſum is much more than they are willing or able to pay; in fact, this ſpecies of debt will never be paid by any of the ſtates upon which it has been impoſed. The ſmall extent of the ſtate of Delaware entirely prevents it from enlarging its reſources; and it has already been propoſed by the ſenate to unite it to a part of the ſtate of Maryland on the eaſt of the Cheſapeak. This propoſition, which has not yet been agreed to by the houſe of repreſentatives, will no doubt be objected to by the ſtate of Maryland, which will not willingly

diſmember itſelf to add to the ſtability of the ſtate of Delaware; whilſt on the other hand, the latter would not be deſirous of ſinking entirely into the ſtate of Maryland. This meaſure would alſo meet ſome oppoſition from the ſmaller ſtates, who at preſent are compenſated for the inferiority of the number of their members in the houſe of repreſentatives by the equal number of repreſentatives they ſend to congreſs, of which compenſation this meaſure would deprive them.

A motion was made in the legiſlative aſſembly this year, to declare all the children of ſlaves born after this period free, and to give freedom to all ſlaves now under the age of twenty-eight, when they attain that age; and that all above that age ſhould remain ſlaves for life. The motion was carried in the houſe of repreſentatives, but as the majority of the people of the country evinced great diſapprobation of the meaſure, it is expected that it will be thrown out next year by the ſenate; and that ſlavery, which every one condemns here, will remain preciſely as it is, even without any preparatory act towards its gradual abolition.

The

The ſmallneſs of the ſtate, its vicinity to Philadelphia, its ſituation on the edge of the bay, or the river Delaware, affords the negroes very eaſy means of running away from their maſters; which I am told they very frequently do.

The laws relative to ſlaves are very humane in the ſtate of Delaware. Every maſter who uſes his ſlaves cruelly is fined, and the murder of a negro is puniſhed with death. If a white man ſtrike a negro, who is not his ſlave, the maſter of that negro may bring the offender to juſtice, and puniſh him by a fine. Till within theſe two years the ſlaves were, for all offences, tried by two juſtices of the peace and ſix freeholders; they are at preſent tried by the ordinary judges, and by a jury if the offence is capital. They are in every other reſpect well treated, and well fed. The price of a good negro is two hundred and ſeventy dollars.

The criminal law is that of England, with a very few alterations.

The ſeat of government is at preſent at Dover, the moſt central town of the ſmall

ſtate of Delaware; until 1794, it was at Wilmington.

A collection of the laws of the ſtate of Delaware is now printing; this is the more neceſſary, as there are many uſeful laws, which have never appeared in print. The Engliſh during the war plundered the town-houſes of this ſtate, as well as every other; and ſent the original records to the governor-general at New-York. After the war it was agreed that they ſhould be returned; but many of them were previouſly deſtroyed.

ROAD TO NEWCASTLE; AND NEWCASTLE.

Half a mile from Wilmington, you croſs the Chriſtiana in a very ſmall ferry-boat, which, however, carries over ſeveral ſtages every day. The two fore-horſes are taken off and placed behind, which fills the whole boat, the ſides of which are not ſix inches high. Every thing in this country diſplays great want of fore-ſight; ſtages and ferry-boats, as well as politics, are made for the moment.

moment. A prudent man foreſees many dangers, which the inhabitants of this country are prevented by habit and careleſſneſs from ſeeing. Whenever, therefore, an accident happens, nobody is prepared for it; every one is agitated and alarmed, but no remedy is applied.

The country on this ſide of Newcaſtle is a continued flat; it is, however, better cultivated than that on the other ſide of Wilmington. The ſoil appears to be light. The land is laid out in meadows, a few corn fields, and ſeveral fields of maize, which are all encloſed: there is very little wood land, and very few good trees. The houſes are rather better than the land; ſome of them are very handſome. Newcaſtle is compoſed of ſeventy houſes, ſome of which are of brick, and are built adjacent to each other: the wide ſtreets and the graſs plots give it the appearance of an Engliſh village. Being the county town, it contains the ſeſſions-houſe and the priſon. The town is built on the Delaware; it does not, however, carry on any direct foreign trade, but confines itſelf to the coaſting trade with Philadelphia.

Newcaſtle,

Newcaſtle, when in the poſſeſſion of the Swedes, was called New-Stockholm. When the Dutch conquered it, they called it New-Amſterdam; and when the Duke of York took poſſeſſion of it he gave it the name which it has ſince retained. It is the oldeſt city of this ſtate.

A fund having been raiſed by way of lottery, ſanctioned by the ſtate, for the purpoſe of building quays at Newcaſtle, that place now affords ſhelter to veſſels in the winter, and begins to riſe from the ſtate of decay into which it had ſunk.

Oak is ſold at Newcaſtle for five dollars a cord, and hiccory for nearly ſeven dollars. The population of the county of Newcaſtle amounts to about eighteen thouſand free people, and three thouſand ſlaves. The frequent communication between Philadelphia and Baltimore, and the great traffic between the two cities, have occaſioned the eſtabliſhment of a more ſpeedy means of conveyance of goods and paſſengers, than by the ordinary land and water carriage.

Four ſmall ſloops conſtantly ſail to and from Newcaſtle and Philadelphia. Regular

ſtages

ſtages convey the paſſengers to French-Town, on the Elk-River, about twelve miles diſtant from Newcaſtle. Goods are carried there in carts. Other ſloops ſail down the Elk-River, which empties itſelf into the Cheſapeak, eighteen miles from French-Town, from whence they proceed to Baltimore. The expence of the paſſage from Philadelphia to Newcaſtle is three quarters of a dollar, three quarters of a dollar by the ſtage to French-Town, and one dollar and a quarter from French-Town to Baltimore. This route is impaſſable during the three or four winter months, at which time the river Delaware is generally frozen.

Newcaſtle is the true point from which all the Philadelphian ſhips take their departure. When they are laden, they drop down thither with their pilot, and take in their poultry and vegetables, where the captains who remain at Philadelphia to ſettle their accounts at the cuſtom-houſe join them by land, and from whence they ſail with the firſt fair wind.

ROAD

ROAD TO WARWICK.—THE RED LION. —MIDDLETON.

All the country is extremely flat until you arrive at the Red Lion, an inn much frequented by ſtages and travellers. The fields are very extenſive: ſome wheat is ſown here, which is beginning to ſhoot; but the general produce is maize: there are ſome meadows ſown with clover, and a ſmall ſhare of timothy-graſs. A few quickſet hedges are here and there to be ſeen, but they merely evince to an European the poſſibility of thus encloſing the fields in this country. Such is the manner in which they are here planted and kept, that they ſerve merely to relieve the eye, fatigued with the gloomy encloſures of dead wood. They ſeldom dig any ditch at the foot of the bank on which the quickſet is planted, or if they do, they cut it ſo narrow and perpendicular, that it is incapable of carrying off the ſmalleſt current of water. The thorns are planted in ſingle rows; when grown they are lopped at the bottom, and become ſmall trees, which are

caſily

eaſily broken down and overthrown by the cattle. Time will no doubt teach the inhabitants of America the great advantage of this ſort of hedges, which would ſave an enormous quantity of wood, in a country where its ſcarcity begins to be already felt: they will learn that the firſt expence of planting and preſerving them would be abundantly repaid by their duration through an endleſs period, in which no further care nor expence would be required.

This will certainly be the caſe ſome day or other; but it is aſtoniſhing, that, notwithſtanding ſo many farmers are continually arriving from Europe, and particularly from England, where the utility of quickſet hedges and the method of raiſing them are ſo well known, the people of this country have not yet profited by their experience. Indolence, and a want of ſufficient funds, are, without doubt, the two principal cauſes which retard ſo neceſſary an improvement. The woods of the ſtate of Delaware and the eaſtern ſhore of Maryland abound with thorns ſimilar to our hawthorns, of which excellent and agreeable hedges might be made.

The

The road from Wilmington, through Newcaſtle, divides itſelf at the Red Lion inn: one road leads to DOVER, and to the ſouth of the ſtate of Delaware, the other to CHESTER-TOWN, and into the ſouth of the ſtate of Maryland: we have choſen the latter route;—I ſay *we*, for I travel in company with Mr. Guillemard, who is ſo kind as to accompany me the few firſt days of this little journey. Land in the neighbourhood of the Red Lion is ſold at about twenty dollars an acre; the ſoil is rather light, but good. This inn is furniſhed with all ſorts of proviſions from Newcaſtle, from which it is ſeven or eight miles diſtant.

The road from the Red Lion to WARWICK runs through the ſame ſort of flat ill-cultivated country. The ſoil, however, becomes ſtronger and better. Some large farm-houſes are to be ſeen on the right and left of the road; they are ſurrounded with little huts for the negroes, from which circumſtance it may be ſuppoſed a conſiderable number of them are employed here.

MIDDLETON, the only village between Warwick and Newcaſtle, is compoſed of about

about twenty houſes, ſome of which are of brick; it is the laſt village in the ſtate of Delaware, which, however, extends to within a mile of Warwick, that is to ſay, three miles beyond Middleton.

WARWICK.—CULTIVATION AND DISEASES OF CORN.

We croſſed ſome ſmall creeks to day, which turn a few mills and ſome forges. They fall into the Delaware either directly or in conjunction with others which they meet in their courſe. The ſmall creek of Bohemia, near Warwick, is the firſt which we have met with that runs as far as the Cheſapeak. The village of Warwick comprizes only five or ſix houſes; it is in the ſtate of Maryland, and in the county of *Cecil*. The farmers complain much of the injury done to their corn by the Heſſian fly. As this diſeaſe is very common in the eaſt of Maryland, I ſhall defer a more full deſcription of it until I have received ſome better information on the ſubject. I ſhall only obſerve at preſent, that from the converſation of two farmers,

farmers, whom I ſaw at the inn, it appears to me that the Heſſian fly chiefly attacks ſuch corn as grows on a poor ſoil, and that ſeveral veins of earth in the ſame fields, which are of a better quality than the reſt, are free from them. Theſe farmers were of opinion, that if the lands were well dunged, and kept in good order, they would not be liable to the diſeaſe. If this aſſertion may be depended upon, it ſhould have induced them to attend to cultivation; but this opinion, as yet, has not made one farmer more attentive. The corn of this country is alſo ſubject to the ruſt, and to a diſeaſe called the ſtab, which reddens a part of the ear, and deſtroys the grain. The obſervations of the inhabitants, who are neither profound nor perſevering in their reſearches, have not aſcertained the cauſe of this laſt diſeaſe of the corn, nor even its nature. They think, however, that the damp ariſing from fogs is one of the principal cauſes. The corn is ſometimes ſown here mixed with plaſter-of-Paris, or with aſhes, but they do not cleanſe it before ſowing, which is apparently one cauſe of the various diſeaſes to which it is ſubject.

Land

Land is ſold here according to its quality, from fifteen to forty dollars an acre. The laborious part of cultivation is generally performed by negro ſlaves. The price of ſuch as are good workmen is at preſent from three to four hundred dollars a negro: they may be hired of thoſe maſters who do not employ them, but let them out at ſixty dollars a year. Labourers are alſo to be procured among the white men, whoſe wages are from one hundred to one hundred and ten dollars a year. Theſe latter are always better fed than the negroes. The farmers, moſt of whom have their own negroes, or hire them of ſlave owners, ſeldom employ white men, except in the time of harveſt, when they pay them a dollar and a half a day, and find them in proviſions. The landlord of the inn where we ſtopped, who is a farmer, and who hires negroes, not having a ſufficient number of his own, prefers them to white men; he aſſures us they will work as well, if properly looked after; and that the whites require as much attention in this reſpect as the negroes. He obſerved, however, that thoſe whites who conſented to work with the

blacks were of the loweſt kind. He has a large field of clover before his houſe, every acre of which produces him yearly ſixty hundred weight of fodder in three crops. He has not held this farm more than one year: it conſiſts of two hundred acres; only ſixty of which are good land.

As there is no market at Warwick, meat is only to be procured of the farmers; who, before they kill their oxen, calves, or ſheep, enſure a ſale for them in the neighbourhood. During this day's journey we have met with good dry roads. Thoſe which we travelled yeſterday were rocky, miry, and cut to pieces by carriage-wheels. The weather to day is very fine; it is a true European ſpring day; comfortably warm and pleaſant. The leaves of the willow trees begin to expand; the turtle-doves woo their mates; and the birds warble their ſongs. Blackbirds are more common in theſe parts than any other ſpecies.

CHESTER-

CHESTER-TOWN, AND THE MANNER IN WHICH JUSTICE IS ADMINISTERED THERE.—OBSERVATIONS ON SLAVERY.

Between Warwick and George-Town, you paſs the ſmall creek called *Head of Saſſafras*. At the head of this creek are ſome mills, which are turned by its water, collected in a large pond; the natural declivity of the creek being very inconſiderable. This ſmall creek has ſeveral branches, which we have paſſed, and which unite together five or ſix houſes at the head of each. Neither theſe nor two or three other creeks which we have before croſſed, flow through vallies, but through hollows; which do not alter the appearance of the ground, or interrupt the perfect level of its ſurface. All the land in this neighbourhood is of a rich and fertile ſoil. The fields are ſtill more extenſive than thoſe which we ſaw yeſterday; the generality of farms are larger, and the appearance of the country is better: but we conſtantly meet with proofs of the little attention

beſtowed on cultivation. The colour of the ſoil, in many places, indicates that it contains iron; which ſettles in the ponds, and on the ſurface of the earth. Among the mills of the *Head of Saſſafras* there are ſome iron-mills.

The road to Cheſter preſents little variety; it is a continual flat, and the fields are ſtripped of their trees, as are all thoſe which we have ſeen ſince we left Philadelphia.

Cheſter, where we arrived on the thirteenth of March, is ſituated in a valley, much larger than any we have yet ſeen. The college, which is a large building, on the ſummit of a hill, commands a view of this little town. This building is in a deplorable ſtate of decay, although it is not yet finiſhed. There is no glaſs in any of the windows; the walls have fallen down in many places, and the doors are without ſteps: yet this is the ſecond college of the ſtate, in which there are only two. This eſtabliſhment is endowed with three thouſand three hundred and thirty dollars a year. It maintains a preſident and three maſters; the number of ſcholars, however, is not more than forty or fifty, though

for

for ſixteen dollars all the branches of learning which are taught there may be acquired. Boarders pay eighty or ninety dollars for their board. Twelve or fifteen hundred dollars have already been expended on this building. It is conſtructed on a plan large enough to receive five hundred ſcholars. Funds are wanting to complete it, and like almoſt all the public buildings in America it will be in ruins before it is finiſhed. There are no free-ſchools in this ſtate, but few day-ſchools, and ſtill fewer grammar-ſchools, where people in eaſy circumſtances can ſend their children. A propoſition was made at the laſt meeting of the legiſlative aſſembly, to eſtabliſh a grammar-ſchool in each county, at the public expence; but this propoſition, which has not yet been determined upon, will not be carried, becauſe in the firſt place nobody feels, or appears to feel, the advantages of a ſuperior education; ſecondly, becauſe the ſmall number of thoſe who are ſenſible of thoſe advantages do not ſuppoſe that much good will reſult from a ſingle ſchool in each county; and laſtly, becauſe the propoſed eſtabliſhment does not

include any proviſion for the education of the people, at leaſt not for that part of the people who are unable to pay for it; and who, doubtleſs, are entitled to ſhare with the other members of the community in the advantages of an education purchaſed with the public treaſure.

Cheſter contains about one hundred and twenty or one hundred and thirty houſes, almoſt all built in one ſtreet; a few of them are brick houſes, but the greater part are of wood: among the latter are ſome rather handſome, well painted, and large. The principal ſtreet —and, as I have ſaid, there is ſcarcely more than one—is built on a gentle declivity, ſloping towards the river. About the middle of this ſtreet, built on a large ſpace of ground, ſtands a church; the windows and the walls of which are not in a much better condition than thoſe of the college. A miniſter is maintained by ſubſcription, who receives about three hundred dollars: as he is alſo preſident of the college, with a ſalary of eight hundred dollars, beſides a reſidence, he may live very comfortably: the contributions of his pariſhioners would not afford

him

him a ſubſiſtence. Near the ſame ſpot ſtands the hall of juſtice.

Cheſter, as the chief town of the county of Kent, is the ſeat of juſtice: courts are held here twice a year, as well as all the courts of common pleas for the ſtate of Maryland; they are held by a chief judge, or a judge of the diſtrict, who preſides ſucceſſively in ſimilar courts in the four counties, of which the diſtrict is compoſed; and by two aſſiſtant judges, who only ſit in the county-court. Mr. *Samuel Chew*, the brother of my reſpectable friend *Benjamin Chew*, of Philadelphia, is one of the aſſiſtant judges. I waited upon him at his houſe; and as he was then in court, I went thither to him. This building is by no means to be admired, either for its exterior, which is falling to decay, like all the public buildings of this city, or for the decorations of the hall of juſtice, which is not in a better ſtate of repair than the outſide of the building.

But here, as every-where elſe, the inſtitution of juries inſpires one with reverence: the jurymen here appear attentive, and anxious to decide with equity. Wherever

this benevolent inſtitution is eſtabliſhed, we exult to ſee the intereſts, the honour, the lives of men committed to the charge of their equals; whom paſſion does not blind; whom the partial knowledge of obſolete ſtatutes does not prejudice; who, having ſimply to pronounce on matters of fact, require no other guide than the dictates of common ſenſe, of which few men, eſpecially few plain men, are deſtitute. The forms of juſtice here are leſs ſatisfactory than in England; where the judge himſelf notes down the depoſitions of the witneſſes, and the principal arguments of the counſellers, and repeats them to the jury before they pronounce their verdict, carefully diſengaging the ſimple facts on which they have to decide from every thing irrelevant. The judges here do not take that trouble; which is generally more neceſſary here, as the counſellors are garrulous, ignorant, and full of chicanery. Yet ſtill the juries ſeldom pronounce an unjuſt verdict; and, as one proof at leaſt of their zeal and attention in the diſcharge of their duty, I muſt remark, that during my ſhort ſtay in this city, a jury has been incloſed twenty-

four

four hours before they agreed in their verdict on a cauſe the iſſue of which did not involve more than fifty dollars. The proceedings of the court at Cheſter appeared to me to be conducted with more decorum than in Philadelphia, or any of the American ſtates which I have viſited. All the attendants are uncovered: ſilence is preſerved: and the only indecorum is occaſioned by the counſellors, who wrangle, interrupt, and often abuſe each other; and appear here, as almoſt everywhere elſe, calculated rather to perplex than elucidate the queſtions which they argue.

Houſe robberies are very frequent in Maryland; five or ſix trials for this offence occur almoſt every ſeſſions. Murders are very rare. The judges attribute the multiplicity of robberies to the free negroes, who are numerous in the ſtate of Maryland: I have heard the ſame accuſation preferred againſt them in all the ſtates where ſlavery is permitted. Such a charge is conſequently a ſtrong argument with the ſlave-holders againſt the abolition of ſlavery; but the evil, if it exiſts, as I am led to believe it does, is ſtill to be attributed to the ſtate of ſlavery, in which

which theſe newly-freed men have been previouſly kept, and from which they have been emancipated without any preparation for a ſtate of freedom.

It is natural to ſuppoſe, that a ſlave, haraſſed by continual labour, driven by the ſcourge to toil in the open fields whether he is healthy or ſick, conſiders liberty merely as a releaſe from labour. Whilſt he was a ſlave, food of ſome ſort or other was always provided for him, without the leaſt care on his part; ſince he was aware that no induſtry, or attention of his, would procure him either better food or clothing. Labour therefore brought nothing but fatigue, and he became of courſe indolent and careleſs. The firſt moments of his liberty are enjoyed in a ceſſation of toil; for the laſh no longer reſounds in his ears: he feels the wants of nature; no education has been beſtowed on him but that of ſlavery, which teaches him to cheat, to ſteal, to lie; and he ſatisfies thoſe wants, for which induſtry has not provided, by pilfering the corn or proviſions of his neighbours, and becomes the receiver of goods ſtolen by the ſlaves.

Though

Though ſuch are the neceſſary conſequences of freedom, *thus beſtowed* upon a ſlave, they ſhould by no means operate unfavourably with thoſe who are deſirous of the gradual emancipation of the negroes; who conceive that by a careful and liberal preparation for ſuch a benevolent meaſure, adapted to the number of negroes in the country, and many other circumſtances, the greater part of the evils deſcribed may be avoided, and may at length be entirely prevented, if not in the preſent, at leaſt in the future generation. But how can we hope for ſo general a ſpirit of philanthropy among men who look only to their preſent intereſt, of which they imagine it deſtructive?

In the ſtate of Maryland, ſlaves are tried in the ſame courts as the whites; they have alſo the privilege of trial by juries. The puniſhments for the blacks are very ſevere; but the manners of the people are mild, at leaſt in that part of Maryland where I am at preſent, and prevail over the rigour of the laws. I was witneſs to a fact which proves the humanity of the judges, and their deſire to render equal juſtice to the accuſed, whether whites

whites or ſlaves. A female negro is now in priſon accuſed of having poiſoned a child, and of having attempted to poiſon her miſtreſs. Her miſtreſs, who is her accuſer, being a woman of conſiderable conſequence in the country, and allied to a family of great influence in the county, the judges, jealous of the effects of that influence on the jury, have availed themſelves of the power they poſſeſs of referring the trial to the general court of the diſtrict, which is held ſixty miles from Cheſter, that the accuſed may enjoy every poſſible chance of a fair and impartial trial.

No meaſures have yet been adopted in Maryland for the gradual freedom of the ſlaves: ſome well-meaning men hope to lead the attention of the legiſlature in a ſhort time to the ſubject, but the opinion of the country ſeems by no means favorable to it.

The laws of Maryland empower the judges to alter the ſentence of death into a milder puniſhment; which is that of ſending the convict to labour for a longer or a ſhorter time in the public works at Baltimore. I am not of their opinion who admire this proviſion of the law; which, on the contrary,

trary, appears to me extremely reprehenſible, as it may, and often muſt, render the judges partial in the eyes of the public: whereas, in every well-regulated ſtate, the judge ſhould merely be the paſſive organ of the law. In the ſtate of Maryland how eaſily may each judge, in adminiſtering juſtice in his own county, be ſwayed by his natural diſpoſition, by an acquaintance with the families of the criminals, or by a momentary impulſe of paſſion! at leaſt, how liable is he to be ſuſpected of ſuch partialities! The judge of the diſtrict receives eight hundred dollars a year; the aſſiſtant judges only three dollars a day during the ſeſſions. The juries and the witneſſes receive one dollar and a third a day.

Near the juſtice-hall ſtands the priſon. It is a ſmall new building, which has not yet even a ſtaircaſe. There is a yard in which it was intended the priſoners ſhould walk for the benefit of the air, but the walls of it are ſo low, that the priſoners are prohibited from walking there, as they might eaſily eſcape. Debtors are confined in a ſeparate apartment of the ſame priſon. The other priſoners are kept

kept together, and in irons: there were but four there when I ſaw the priſon, one of which was a negro, who, in attempting to eſcape from the window, fractured his leg in ſuch a manner, as to render amputation neceſſary. We entered this priſon, and viſited the whole interior of the building without the gaoler, who was abſent, and who had left the keys in the doors, in ſuch a manner, that we, or any other perſons who had come to the priſon, might have releaſed all the priſoners. This careleſſneſs, this negligence, is, generally ſpeaking, characteriſtic of the country. The gaoler receives eighteen pence a day for the maintenance of each priſoner; the whole of which pittance ought certainly to be applied to that object; but it is to be ſuſpected, and indeed we were aſſured, that this is not very ſcrupulouſly done.

At Cheſter, as almoſt every-where elſe in America, the burial-place is in the middle of the town; here, however, to the danger of contagion, always great in warm climates, is added indecency; for the burial-ground is in the high ſtreet, near the priſon; it is without

out walls, or any other incloſure to conceal it; and is not diſtinguiſhed by any marks, which might inſpire the reſpect due to every place ſet apart for the burial of the dead. The ſadneſs which this indifference has occaſioned me, will perhaps be aſcribed to prejudice; but where is the ſon, or the huſband, who could behold without ſhuddering the grave of the father, or the wife that he loved, trampled on by beaſts? Reverence for the aſhes of the dead appears to me as natural as reſpect for the aged; which perhaps ſome may alſo denominate a prejudice; but it is a prejudice of which few, I think, would have ſufficient *energy* to diveſt themſelves, though they may ſtile that corruption of the underſtanding, and of morals, *energy*, which throws off all reſtraint, which ſpurns the ſentiments of nature, and renounces every ancient feeling and opinion merely on account of their antiquity.

A poor-houſe for the county is eſtabliſhed at Cheſter. I have already repeated, that my opinion is unfavourable to the eſtabliſhment of this ſort of houſes. This, however, is kept in as good order as any private houſe.

The

The poor are well fed, and have the appearance of being very healthy. The building of the houſe coſt about five thouſand ſix hundred dollars. The annual expence for eighty-two paupers, old and young, is four thouſand dollars, which is about forty-ſix dollars and a third per head. The overſeers of the poor in each hundred of the county have the power of admitting into the poor-houſe ſuch perſons as they deem proper objects. The children are put out apprentices when they are of a proper age; and as they are bound to remain with their maſters till the age of twenty-one, no money is advanced by the houſe to the maſters. Hitherto the negroes have been excluded from the poor-houſe: which is certainly a juſt excluſion, as far as it reſpects ſlaves, as their maſters ought to take care of them; but which ought not to be extended to free negroes, negreſſes, and their children. It was ſaid by the governors of the poor, that if they admitted the claims of theſe people, their houſe would be filled by them, as their improvidence is greater than the whites. It is difficult to admit this reaſoning of œconomy

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as an excuſe for ſo inhuman a refuſal. Prejudice againſt the negroes, and particularly againſt the free negroes, is the true cauſe of this unjuſt deciſion; which reduces the old, infirm negroes, and their children, to ſubſiſt upon private charity, and in failure of that precarious ſource, frequently expoſes them to the utmoſt want and loweſt ſtate of wretchedneſs. The poors'-rates in the ſtate of Maryland are levied upon each county. Every county has not a poor-houſe. In ſeveral they adminiſter relief to the poor at their own houſes, but every-where the ſame regulations are adopted relative to the diſtributions of the public money.

Cheſter is built on a river of the ſame name, which riſes in the ſtate of Delaware. This river is about three quarters of a mile wide, and is navigable in boats ten miles above the town; after which it becomes a ſmall creek, the ſtream of which is barely ſufficient to turn a mill. Cheſter is thirteen miles in a direct line from the Cheſapeak; but the land is ſo flat, that the river before it reaches its mouth runs a zig-zag courſe of thirty-five miles. It is navigable to Cheſter

for ſhips of from eighty to ninety tons. One veſſel of this burthen belongs to this port, and is employed in the commerce of the Weſt-Indies; I ſaw alſo ſome ſmaller ſhips, and ſome boats without decks, which are employed in the navigation of the bay, and particularly in voyages to Baltimore. All the towns that are ſituated on the rivers which fall into the Cheſapeak employ ſimilar veſſels, the numbers of which have been greatly increaſed within theſe few years, as the corn which was formerly carried away by the Philadelphian merchants, or by the Brandywine millers, is at preſent ſent to Baltimore, where lately ſeveral good mills have been built: grain is likewiſe ſent to Elk-Town.

Corn is raiſed in large quantities in this part of Maryland: it is eſteemed the beſt and heavieſt of any which is grown in the United States, but, as I have before obſerved, it is ſubject to the attacks of the Heſſian fly, which often deſtroys half the harveſt. It ſeems to be univerſally admitted here, as well as in Warwick, that ſuch corn as is ſown in ſoils either naturally rich, or made ſo by dunging, is exempted from this diſeaſe, as the blade

ſhoots

ſhoots faſt and becomes very ſoon ſtrong, and impenetrable to the attacks of this deſtructive little fly. Beſides the ruſt and the ſtab, the corn is likewiſe ſometimes injured by a ſpecies of fly, known in Virginia by the name of *Widles*, which renders it neceſſary to thraſh it immediately it is cut; but this diſeaſe is by no means ſo general here as in the lower parts of Virginia, though it is not long ſince they have ſuffered by it in this part of Maryland, where, however, they have as yet neglected the precaution of threſhing the corn as ſoon as it is cut. The conviction of the advantage of enriching the land has not induced the farmers to beſtow more dung upon their fields. Such land as is cultivated in the uſual way produces only from five to ſix buſhels of corn an acre, or from eight to ten buſhels of maize; whilſt ſuch as is well dunged produces ſix or ſeven times more: the latter is, beſides, leſs ſubject to injury from the damps than the former. It is, however, to the human ſpecies that the conſtant damps of this boggy and flat country are moſt pernicious; the fogs and vapours of the months of July and Auguſt are particularly noxious.

Bilious and intermittent fevers are epidemical in Autumn, and attack more than an eighth of the white inhabitants. Many people ſink under theſe diſorders, the general effects of which muſt be deſtructive, as it is rare to find an inhabitant who has attained the age of ſixty-five. The negroes are leſs affected by theſe diſorders than the whites, and in general live longer. The preſervation of their health is attributed to their conſtantly ſleeping in the kitchens, where they are preſerved from the damps, which penetrate into all the houſes, even during the moſt unpleaſant heat.

Cheſter has a market regularly twice a week, which is well ſupplied with proviſions. Beef, mutton, and veal, coſts from ſix to eight pence per pound. The rent of the beſt houſes in Cheſter does not exceed one hundred dollars, and living in general is cheaper there by one half than at Philadelphia.

There are about fourteen or fifteen ſtores at Cheſter, one of which is kept by Mr. John Chew, another brother of my friend at Philadelphia. The goods are in general brought from Philadelphia, where they are obtained

obtained cheaper than at Baltimore, notwithſtanding the expences of carriage, which amounts to nearly one per cent. They are ſold at twenty or twenty-five per cent above the price of the ſhops in Philadelphia. When it is known that the greateſt part of the ſtorekeepers at Cheſter frequently buy their goods at a half, and always a quarter, below the market price, it muſt be ſuppoſed that though they tranſact little buſineſs they make great profits.

Free negroes for agricultural labour are eaſily procured at eighty dollars a year; ſlaves may be hired at fifty dollars. Some planters prefer white labourers and free negroes to ſlaves, as leſs troubleſome and more profitable. A cow is ſold here for fifteen or twenty dollars; an ox, for forty; and a horſe for labour, for one hundred. Carriage horſes often coſt ſix hundred dollars the pair. The county of Kent, of which Cheſter is the chief place, contains thirteen thouſand inhabitants, of which five thouſand ſix hundred are ſlaves; it furniſhes but few cattle for the markets of Baltimore and Philadelphia, as almoſt all its produce is conſumed within itſelf.

COLONEL THYLMAN.

Having croſſed the river, we entered Queen Ann's-County, which affords no more variety in the nature of its ſoil or its cultivation than thoſe I have paſſed. I was informed that I was in the worſt part of the county, and that the more diſtant parts are fertile and produce great quantities of corn, which I am induced to believe, as every body agreed in the report; and as it is well known that the county exports a large quantity of corn, and ſends a great many cattle to Baltimore market: but all the land which lies near the road twenty-two miles on this ſide Colonel Thylman's is poor and barren, which is attributed to its having been drained by the long growth of tobacco here previous to the almoſt total relinquiſhing the cultivation of that plant in this part of Maryland. Theſe ſorts of ſoil produce from four to ſix buſhels of corn an acre, when they are not infeſted with either the Heſſian fly, with ſmut, by the ſtab, nor by the widle. The houſes by the ſide of the roads are of the moſt miſerable kind,

kind, and the inhabitants appear by their exterior as poor as their lands. Theſe habitations conſiſt of bad log-houſes, as ſmall as thoſe which are met within the midſt of the moſt diſtant woods.

The little village of *Church-hill*, containing a dozen old houſes, and two old little churches, the one epiſcopal, and the other methodiſtical, is the only one to be met with on this ſide *Centerville*, the chief town of the county: this place is ſituated upon a ſmall elevation above *Corſica*-creek. The county built the ſeſſions-houſe and the priſon; there are ſome other habitations here, conſiſting principally of taverns and warehouſes, making in the whole about twenty houſes tolerably well built of brick, but at a conſiderable diſtance from each other, without having any cultivated fields near them: there is a mill of conſiderable ſize, built upon the creek. A little further in the country there is an epiſcopal church, which the inhabitants in the neighbourhood who are in eaſy circumſtances attend regularly: I have ſeen many horſes and carriages attending at the door. As to Church-hill, the ſmall village which I

paſſed, the epiſcopal church there is but thinly attended, almoſt all the inhabitants frequent that of the methodiſts.

From Centerville to Colonel Thylman's the ſoil ſeems to be a little better; there are ſome farms which appear to be for the moſt part the habitations of planters; but thoſe poor little houſes are much more numerous. The whole country is covered with cattle of a very poor condition, which are always, during winter and ſummer, left in the fields and in the woods: they are of a very ſmall ſpecies. Hogs are more abundant in Queen Ann's-County than in the county of Kent, and more ſcattered about in the roads and in the fields. Sheep are alſo conſiderably plentiful in this part of Maryland, but they are ſmall and long-legged; in general they produce only two pounds of wool, which ſells at two *ſchellings* a pound.

The houſe of Colonel Thylman is upon the river Cheſter; it is in a very flat ſituation, from whence a great maſs of water is ſeen, which is, however, only the bay of the river Cheſter parted by the iſles of Eaſtern, Neck, and Kent-iſland.

Colonel

Colonel Thylman has a property of three thouſand acres of land contiguous, of which he uſes about one thouſand for growing corn and maize, and for meadow ground. He appears to know all the faults of the agriculture of his country, and to be convinced of the advantage reſulting from a change; but he ſees ſo many difficulties attending it, that the amendments he makes are only partial and few, though well informed, by the reading of good Engliſh books, of all that is neceſſary to be done in order to eſtabliſh a good and rich tillage. Cuſtom almoſt every-where prevails over light and knowledge; people will not, they dare not, act contrary to others: and in the buſineſs of agriculture, where this cuſtom has a greater empire perhaps than any-where elſe, the great expences which are neceſſary to the introduction of a great change for the better, aid this general diſpoſition to follow the common routine.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS UPON THE POPULATION OF LOWER MARYLAND.

The population of white people in the eaſt

eaſt part of Maryland diminiſhes inſtead of augmenting. In a country abounding in ſlaves, the whites do not apply much to labour. Their ambition conſiſts in buying negroes; they buy them with the firſt ſum of money they get, and when they have two of them they leave off working themſelves: this ſmall number is not ſufficient to keep their lands in good order according to the tillage of the country, bad as it may be. The ſmall farmers among the whites thus leaving off labour augment their expences, and their affairs are ſoon in a bad condition. Theſe, and thoſe who had never been able to purchaſe negroes, find themſelves in an inferior ſituation to their neighbours who have many ſlaves: diſpleaſed with their ſtation, they ſoon think of eſtabliſhing themſelves in a country where land is cheaper, and where they ſhall not be ſo much ſurpaſſed by proprietors ſo diſproportionably richer than themſelves. So that all theſe ſmall farms, the ſupporting of which becomes every year more chargeable, becauſe the wood for making the fences for encloſure is more ſcarce, and hand-labour at a higher price, are put to

ſale,

ſale, and are bought by rich planters, and thoſe who have ſold them go to eſtabliſh themſelves in Kentucky, in Teneſſee, and in the countries of the weſt. By this the province does not gain in agricultural improvements what it loſes in population; its lands are not better managed; their produce is not increaſed but often diminiſhed, becauſe the purchaſer of them looks rather at a good foundation for his property, that is to ſay, a ſure augmentation of property, than an increaſe of revenue.

Here, as in other places, when the utility of negro ſlaves to the intereſts of the maſter is cloſely examined, compared with the employment of every other kind of labour, it will be found that in reality it has none. The old men and women, children, and pregnant females, muſt be fed and clothed, and taken care of in ſickneſs. Nothing is more common than to ſee the proprietor of eighty ſlaves unable to bring thirty to work in the field at the ſame time. Ten workmen, hired by the year, will perform at leaſt as much labour as theſe thirty ſlaves, and the maſter has nothing to do but to pay them.

them. There are already a great many maſters aware of this calculation, and many perceive the inconvenience of ſlaves, who, as I have ſaid, cauſe all the white labourers to quit the country who would apply themſelves to work if there were no ſlaves. Maſters are embarraſſed with their negroes, the population of whom would otherwiſe augment in the ſouthern ſtates in the ſame proportion as that of the whites in other parts of America; but while they all perceive the inconveniency of ſlavery, they are the firſt to oppoſe the meaſure of the legiſlature's making a law for the gradual abolition of ſlavery.

The proprietors of negroes complain already that ſince their population has increaſed, they are leſs ſubmiſſive and more turbulent than they were before. Theſe ſymptoms ought to teach them the neceſſity of doing ſomething ſpeedily towards putting an end to this ſtate of ſlavery, which will be ſooner or later very dangerous to the maſters; but they fall aſleep over this as they do over other dangers; and in this caſe, as in all others, it is acknowledged that foreſight is

null

null and void among the people of America.

The fields are in all this part of Maryland often of the extent of from ſixty to eighty acres. Thoſe, who underſtand good tillage know how much this great ſize of fields muſt be detrimental to it, in a country where neither the horſes, the beaſts, nor the ſwine, are kept in the yards, and where conſequently dung cannot be procured for fields of four acres, much leſs for fields of ſuch great extent, which even with plenty of dung can never be regularly and well dunged. So that the harveſts, even in the better ſoil, are poor. They are here with reſpect to dung as they are with ſlaves; they perceive the advantage of uſing it in the ſame manner as they perceive the inconveniency of keeping negroes, but the conviction of what is beſt has no more effect in the one caſe than in the other.

Some farmers juſtify the largeneſs of their fields by the dearneſs of materials for fencing them. It is true that five panes or ſquares of this fencing will take rather more than a cord

cord of wood, and that five ſquares will fence no more than about ſixty feet, and that they ought to be renewed every three years. When it is conſidered that a cord of oak coſts at Cheſter four dollars and a half, and alſo that every farmer who makes only three hundred ſquares of fencing, which is but little, ſince it is only an extent of ſeven hundred and twenty-two fathoms, or 4332 feet nearly, and that he could ſell this wood ſo employed for ſixty dollars, it will then not be ſurprizing to ſee ſo many fences in a bad condition, nor that ſo many ſmall farmers are diſpleaſed with their poſſeſſions on account of this expence alone. This calculation is made every-where: all the world knows the advantage of hedges as fences, every body ſees ſome of them in the country; the thorn is in every wood, and there are living fences without being regularly planted. Beſides, wood ſenſibly diminiſhes in this part of America as in every other. It is cut down every-where, and made uſe of by every body; it is every-where waſted, and no-where replanted; even the trees that have

been

been cut are not permitted to bud and grow again, becauſe the cattle are ſuffered to run over and deſtroy them.

Queen Ann's-County contains about fifteen thouſand inhabitants, of whom ſeven thouſand are ſlaves: the number of free negroes is very conſiderable.

The county of Talbot, to the ſouth of that of Queen Ann, is fertile, and produces plenty of corn and cattle: they are conveyed into Cheſapeak-bay by the river Cheſapeak. The manner of tillage is the ſame.

The counties of Dorcheſter, Somerſet, and of Wincheſter, afford alſo ſome corn, but the greateſt part of them is covered with wood, particularly with cedars and pines, the carriage of which is effected by the rivers Crantikoke, Wicomeko, and Pokomeko, and is, in every reſpect, like to that of the woods of the county of Suſſex, of which I have ſpoken in the ſtate of Delaware.

Caroline-County, ſituated between that of Talbot and the ſtate of Delaware, is the moſt ſterile of the eight counties of this part of Maryland.

A plan of a canal is in agitation, which is propoſed

propoſed to take place in the waters of the river Chaptank, in order to join the Delaware and the Cheſapeak. It is at preſent only a project, but the legiſlature has ordered an account of the places to be taken. It is ſaid, that the opinion of men the moſt acquainted with theſe affairs is favourable to its execution, and it is hoped that it will be accompliſhed. The diviſion of the waters of this peninſula, which run either into the Delaware or into the Cheſapeak, is made by a range of marſhes which reach through the whole extent of the ſtate of Delaware, and of which the poſition is a little more elevated than the reſt of the country. It is remarked, that the ſoil of theſe marſhes is more ſandy, and of an inferior quality to that of the reſt of the peninſula; and that the buſhes and ſhrubs which are commonly found upon the higheſt mountain are alſo to be met with in this marſhy country.

The inhabitants in eaſy circumſtances of the eaſt part of Maryland are polite and hoſpitable. Mr. Chew treated me in the moſt kind and obliging manner, and had a friendſhip for me which this excellent family

have

have continued to preſerve during the whole time I have been in America. The people of this country are of gentle manners; it is towards the intereſts of their farms that their cares and attentions are generally turned, and the ſale of the produce of the ſoil is the only commerce to which they apply.

In political opinions they are federaliſts, but without any other predilection for England, than that which proceeds from the great attachment which they have here for the ancient preſident, who in the laſt years of his adminiſtration traced this path with credit. The people amuſe themſelves with the writings of *Fenno* and *Porcupine*; but they ſay already that the latter is a *blackguard*, who wiſhes to deliver America up into the hands of the Engliſh. There is no great advancement made in politics anywhere. The young men are much taken up with fox-hunting and racing.

ISLE OF KENT.—PASSAGE OF THE CHESAPEAK.

After paſſing a day agreeably at the houſe

of Colonel Thylman, one of the moſt amiable and polite men, and of the beſt company, which I have yet met with in America, I proceeded on my way towards *Kent-Iſland*, where I propoſed to embark for Annapolis. The country is every-where flat, and the land has been much uſed for the cultivation of tobacco, which is now abandoned: the houſes are miſerable. Twelve miles from the colonel's, after having paſſed through a mean little village, conſiſting of ſix or ſeven houſes, honoured with the name of Queen's-Town, I paſſed the *Kent-narrow* in a ſmall ferry-boat, and I travelled ſeven miles further in the flat iſle of Kent, where the land was of the ſame nature as that which I had juſt left. The inhabitants there appear to be ſtill poorer. Captain Calvert keeps a tolerably good inn at the point of the iſland, and two good ſmall ſloops for the paſſage. But theſe ſloops cannot approach nearer to the ſhore than within half a mile. It was neceſſary to take my horſe with me in a boat abſolutely flat, from whence he was hoiſted into this little veſſel. The awkwardneſs of the negro ſailors and of the captain in this affair, made us think that

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the horſe and we ſhould have loſt our lives on this occaſion. Happily we came off with but little injury, and after a paſſage of an hour and a quarter over twelve miles, the breadth of Cheſapeak-bay at this place, I and my horſe arrived ſafe at Annapolis the 3d of April.

The paſſage for a man and his horſe coſts two dollars, when there are no other paſſengers; when there are many, the price of the paſſage is only a dollar and a half. This little voyage is commonly performed in two hours: we went in leſs time becauſe the weather was admirable.

ANNAPOLIS.

The proſpect of Annapolis is extremely agreeable upon arriving there from the bay. This city is built upon the ſide of the *Severn*, upon a little hill, which, without being much elevated, commands a little of the flat country which ſurrounds it. Annapolis was formerly the principal city of Maryland, and there was ſome commerce carried on there. Since the revolution it retains the name of the metropolis of the ſtate, and continues to be the

ſeat of the government, but Baltimore has drawn all the commerce from it. The capitaliſts, or thoſe who would become ſuch, have quitted it to go and reſide at Baltimore; and the inhabitants are in general families in eaſy circumſtances, who have property in the neighbourhood, officers of the government, and gentlemen of the law, attracted by the vicinity of the courts of juſtice. The population of this town diminiſhes every year; the houſes are for the moſt part built of brick, and are ſpacious, many of them are very large, and have fine gardens, in better order than any I have yet ſeen in America.

The ſtate-houſe is one of the largeſt public buildings in the United States, and its interior the moſt complete and finiſhed, at leaſt as far as the plan is at preſent executed. This ſtructure, which has already coſt one hundred and thirty thouſand dollars, will probably require from fifteen to twenty thouſand more before it is completed, which it will ſoon be, as the legiſlature grants every year the neceſſary ſums for this purpoſe. It contains apartments for the tribunals, for the aſſemblies of the executive council, and rooms

for

for the principal officers of the ſtate, except for the governor, who has a houſe built by the ſtate. It has a large cupola with a lantern at the top, which is aſcended by a commodious ſtaircaſe, and from whence there is a proſpect as far as the Atlantic, beyond the Cheſapeak; of the peninſula of Delaware-bay; and of the little point of Jerſey, which ſeparates it from Annapolis.

The college is another very conſiderable building. It has an endowment of five thouſand dollars, which is raiſed by certain duties of the ſtate, ſuch as licences, fines, &c. but of the weſt part of Maryland only. There are a hundred ſcholars there, and it is ſaid that the maſters of it are very good. The Engliſh, the learned languages, the French, the mathematics as far as aſtronomy, ſome philoſophy, and ſome common law, are taught there.

A church large enough to contain three times the number of inhabitants in Annapolis ſhews, that at the time it was built there was no ſuſpicion of the preſent depopulation of the city, which does not contain more than two thouſand innabitants.

Annapolis is, however, as to ſociety, one of the moſt agreeable cities of the United States; hoſpitality, and an obliging ſincerity, are in no part ſo general; all the families are united, and a ſtranger, always well received among them, ſoon finds himſelf at his eaſe there.

I had a letter for Mr. Cooke, one of the moſt celebrated counſellors in the ſtate. He is eſteemed as one of thoſe who unite the greateſt talents to goodneſs, to virtue, and to kindneſs. He is ſaid to poſſeſs that delicacy in his profeſſion, which has always appeared to me to be neceſſary to make that of a counſellor the principal, and the moſt reſpectable, of all others. He never undertakes a doubtful caſe; and his fortune permits him to do his duty in juſt cauſes without emolument, to thoſe clients who are not in a ſituation to pay him. Can there be, for a man of talents and morality, a ſituation in life preferable to that? Always the advocate of juſtice, labouring without ceaſing to have it adminiſtered, in the manner ſuch a clear and virtuous conſcience ſees it in; what employment of life can be compared to this? Here

I point

I point at the ſpeculators in lands, in the funds, and upon the ruin of others, &c. &c.—call me a fool for avowing it.

Mr. Carrol, one of the richeſt inhabitants of the United States, has alſo a houſe at Annapolis, and many others in the ſtate: he has in general the favourable opinion of the people. Mr. Cooke introduced me to Mr. Ogle, to the houſe of Dr. Murray, and to many others. All that I have ſeen of the men and women of this city leads me to think it one of the places which a ſtranger would be moſt inclined to chooſe, if he did not catch the diſeaſe of the country—the thirſt for ſpeculation.

Politics are here what they are in that part of Maryland I have juſt quitted. At preſent the people here are held in admiration by the ſucceſſes of Buonaparte, and I am very glad to have arrived at this period, in a city which is rather diſpoſed to Engliſh opinions than to favourable ones of my country.

A ſeparate peace with the emperor is wiſhed for, which would compel that of England. It is by far the deareſt of my wiſhes; but let us hope and ſpeak of ſome-

thing elſe. The inhabitants of Annapolis ſay that the ſituation is healthful, yet they confeſs that they are ſubject to fevers in autumn. The country has not the appearance of being ſo unhealthy as that of the other ſide of the bay; but it is too much ſurrounded by water and creeks of a ſlow current, to be depended upon as a ſalutary abode.

The county of Ann Arundel, of which Annapolis is alſo the chief place, is peopled with about thirteen thouſand freemen, and eleven thouſand ſlaves. Wheat, maize, oats, and tobacco, are cultivated here. Iron is found, and three or four forges and furnaces for great works have been eſtabliſhed here during ſome years.

A cord of oak wood coſts at Annapolis four dollars and a half, that of hiccory five and a half. Virginia coals have been burnt here about two years.

The market here is very badly proviſioned; it is very often without beef; when there is any it ſells at eight pence a pound, and mutton and veal at ten pence. Fiſh, and eſpecially perch, rockfiſh, and ſhads, abound in the proper ſeaſon for them.

I learnt

I learnt at Annapolis that Mr. Carroll in his large plantation near Ellicot's mill had attempted to cultivate the vine, without ſucceſs, though he had employed vine-dreſſers whom he had expreſſly ſent for from France. From this they conclude here that the vine cannot proſper, and that the wine cannot be good. This proves that the nature of the ſoil and of the climate require ſome particular care and attention, of which good obſervation, and longer experience, may lead to the diſcovery of the ſecret; but it is impoſſible to ſuppoſe that the ſoil of Maryland is incapable of producing good grapes.

THE HISTORY, CONSTITUTION, AND LAWS OF MARYLAND.

Annapolis being the ſeat of government, it appears to me proper to place here what I have to ſay of the hiſtory and conſtitution of Maryland.

The northern ſtates of America owe their eſtabliſhment to the perſecutions which the Preſbyterians ſuffered in England.

Cecilius Calvert, Baron of Baltimore, a Catholic,

Catholic, received at his requeſt in 1633 a charter from Charles the Firſt, who gave to him and to his heirs the property of the countries to the north of the Potowmack. This charter granted to Cecilius Calvert endowed him with the power and authority of making laws both civil and criminal, of raiſing taxes, and granting honours.

The enacting clauſe of the charter ſtated an intention of extending the Chriſtian religion: Charles the Firſt therein engages for himſelf and his heirs, *never to lay upon the inhabitants of theſe new colonies any interior tax by an exterior legiſlature.*

The firſt colony, compoſed of about two hundred gentlemen of fortune and rank, and the ſame number of their partizans or domeſtics, all Catholics, landed in the beginning of 1633 near to the mouth of the Potowmack, in Cheſapeak-bay. They gave to their eſtabliſhment the name of Maryland, ſome ſay in honour of the virgin, others that it was in honour of Queen Mary, wife of Charles the Firſt. They made their eſtabliſhment in concert with the Indians, of whom they bought lands, and with whom they

they lived in great cordiality. They received for their eſtabliſhment more ſuccours from theſe ſavages than they could expect; they provided them with game, and the Indian women taught them how to make bread of maize, &c.

Lord Baltimore eſtabliſhed his colony upon laws of entire toleration for every ſect of the chriſtian religion, without preference for any, and alſo upon thoſe of civil liberty. This colony received ſucceſſively many new emigrations from Europe, and a conſiderable number of puritans whom the laws of Virginia drove from their infant ſettlement, in conſequence of which it increaſed very much. An aſſembly of freemen formed in 1638, in concert with Lord Baltimore, a kind of conſtitution for the formation of laws which ſhould not be enforced till after they had received the ſanction of two houſes, and the approbation of the governor.

In the midſt of theſe wiſe eſtabliſhments it is painful to learn, that ſlavery took root in this colony in its infancy, for an act made by an aſſembly of *freemen*, in giving a definition of the *people*, pronounced that *they*

conſiſted

conſiſted of all the inhabitants, the ſlaves excepted.

This colony was diſturbed ſucceſſively by troubles, which were quickly appeaſed by Lord Baltimore, of whom it appears that prudence and excellent conduct in all ſituations never failed him.

After the death of Charles the Firſt affairs changed. Cromwell was acknowledged by this province, which was then dependent upon England. Lord Baltimore was obliged to take refuge in Virginia. The Catholic religion was excluded after the Engliſh religion was eſtabliſhed by law. In ſhort, after many viciſſitudes, and after the reſtoration of Charles the Second, Lord Baltimore was re-eſtabliſhed in the property of the ſtate of Maryland, where his heirs were fixed till the laſt revolution, in which a part of their poſſeſſions was confiſcated.

The conſtitution of 1638 was reviſed in 1650, and underwent ſome changes, was ſuſpended during the troubles, but after thoſe were blown over it was reſtored to full vigour, and remained ſo till 1776, when the preſent conſtitution was made.

By

By this conſtitution the general aſſembly is compoſed of a houſe of delegates, and a ſenate. Each county chooſes four members of the houſe of delegates: there are ſeventeen counties, and the cities of Annapolis and Baltimore nominate two each. The houſe of delegates is renewed every year. The conditions required to become a member are, to be twenty-one years of age, a citizen of the ſtate, a reſident of the county of one year ſtanding, and to be poſſeſſed of a property of the value of thirteen hundred and thirty dollars. The electors of the repreſentatives are required to be twenty-one years of age, and to be freemen, poſſeſſing a perſonal property of eighty dollars, or fifty acres of land. There are fifteen ſenators who are choſen for five years, by two electors for each county, choſen by the electors who chooſe the repreſentatives. Seven ſenators out of the fifteen are required to be of the eaſtern part of the ſtate, and eight of the weſtern part; their functions all ceaſe together. In order to become a ſenator it is required to be twenty-five years of age, to have

have been a reſident of the ſtate during the three years preceding, and to have a property of two thouſand ſix hundred and ſixty-two dollars.

The executive power conſiſts of a governor and five counſellors; they are choſen by the majority of the two houſes united. The ſame conditions required to become a ſenator are required to become a counſellor.

The governor is required to be twenty-five years of age at leaſt, to be poſſeſſed of property to the amount of thirteen thouſand two hundred and eighty-two dollars, and to have been a reſident of the ſtate during the five preceding years.

The governor, with the advice of the council, appoints to all places, except to thoſe of ſheriffs, treaſurers, and coroners. He has the power of expelling thoſe from office who are in, except the judges. He annuls or mitigates ſentences, and is military chief by land and ſea: he is elected for one year only, and can only be re-elected for three years in ſeven. His place is filled in caſe of abſence or death, by the counſellor of the oldeſt ſtanding.

ing. Every perſon before he enters into any official functions is required to take an oath that he is of the Chriſtian religion.

With very few exceptions, very reaſonable and of ſmall extent, all property in Maryland is ſubject to taxation. The legiſlature has made a valuation of the lands in each county, and according to different rates, which vary from half a dollar to four and a half. Slaves are valued according to their age and ſex, from as low as forty dollars up to one hundred and twenty. The lots in towns are valued in proportion to their rent; a hundred dollars when the rent is eight: the houſes at a hundred dollars for every ſixteen of rent.

Independently of theſe general taxes, every advocate at the time of his admiſſion into a court pays eight dollars, and ſo for every year he continues his profeſſion. The licences for keeping taverns pay eight dollars; thoſe for ſelling ſpirituous liquors, ſixteen. Every marriage licence pays a tax of a dollar and two thirds.

There are beſides theſe a great many other taxes, upon legal proceedings, upon judgments, upon deciſions of the court of chancery,

cery, and upon thoſe of the judge of the office of lands, &c. &c.

When the ſtate has an occaſion for taxes, the legiſlature which votes them appoints in the ſame bill five commiſſioners for the county. Theſe commiſſioners aſſemble, divide the county into diſtricts for taxation, and appoint an aſſeſſor for each of theſe diſtricts. It is the duty of theſe aſſeſſors to make uſe of all legal means to know the taxable property of every individual. Falſe returns made by proprietors are puniſhed by an augmentation of the tax, to the double, or triple, according to the nature of the caſe.

The baſes for the valuation of lands, and other property mentioned above, direct the aſſeſſors in aſcertaining the quota of the tax to be paid by each individual. Their labour is ſubmitted to the five commiſſioners of the county, who afterwards appoint the collectors; theſe depoſit the money they collect into the treaſury-cheſt of one of the two parts of the ſtate, according to the ſituation of the county where the tax is raiſed, for the more ready execution of their duty, under the inſpection of the commiſſioners: the col-

lectors

lectors are required to give ſecurity. The goods, movable and immovable, of taxable perſons may be ſeized by the collectors, in default of payment, and thoſe alſo of the collectors are liable to ſeizure, for negligence in their collection. The commiſſioners receive a dollar and a half for every day they are employed. They fix the ſalaries of the aſſeſſors, which cannot exceed ſixty-ſix dollars: the collectors are rewarded with four per cent of what they receive. The ſtate has not laid a tax ſince 1786; it amounted in that year to two hundred and eighty-four thouſand dollars, and the expence of collection was only two and a half per cent. The taxes upon the profeſſion of an advocate, and upon licences joined to thoſe which are produced by legal proceſſes, by fines, &c. with the increaſe of the intereſts of the capitals of the ſtate, have been ſufficient to pay all the expences of government, which are eſtimated from ſeventy to eighty thouſand dollars per annum. The ſtate has no debts except that of a hundred and fifty-one thouſand dollars by the Union, eſtimated by the commiſſioners whom I have ſo often men-

tioned. It has in the Engliſh funds fifty thouſand pounds ſterling, which were placed there before the revolution, of which England acknowledges the claim, and to which even the Engliſh miniſter has given countenance; but Maryland has not yet been able to obtain payment from the bank in which theſe ſums are placed. The ſtate is deprived of this income by particular reaſons of ſtate, and by the negligence or bad conduct of its agents in England. So this capital of fifty thouſand pounds ſterling has been increaſing by accumulated intereſt during thirty years. The taxes for every county are not the ſame, but they are taxed at the mean rate of a dollar and a half for two hundred and ſeventy-ſeven dollars in value of all taxable property.

The towns have alſo their particular taxes, according to their wants; that of Baltimore amounts to four dollars for every two hundred and ſeventy-ſeven dollars of taxable property.

Every one acquires the rights of a citizen of the ſtate of Maryland, by only making oath before a public officer of his profeſſion

feſſion of Chriſtianity, and of allegiance to the laws, and to the ſtate. The power of poſſeſſing every ſpecies of property, and of enjoying all the advantages of a native citizen of the ſtate, is the immediate conſequence of this oath, except the right of performing public functions. Foreigners are exempt by the law from taxation for two years, and during four years if they be traders, workmen, or manufacturers.

I cannot ſpeak at any length of the ſyſtem of the laws of Maryland, becauſe I have not been able to procure a collection of them, notwithſtanding the obligingneſs of the perſons to whom I applied. I have ſpoken in another place of thoſe of which I had a knowledge as far as I could obtain it.

The importation of negroes from Africa prohibited by the law ceaſed there in 1763. The introduction of negroes from other ſtates is forbidden by a recent law, with the neceſſary reſtriction for the emigrants who bring them as domeſtics.

ROAD TO FEDERAL-CITY.

The company of Mr. Yates, an Engliſh merchant, whom I had ſeen in the ſociety at Annapolis, and who went to *Upper Marlborough*, induced me to prefer this road, notwithſtanding the inconveniency of three paſſages over rivers, which I could have avoided by taking that of *Bladenſburg*. The country from Annapolis to South-River riſes a little, at leaſt it is divided by ſmall elevations, which are not much more than banks, ſimilar to the other ſide of the bay. The landſcape is embelliſhed with handſome country-houſes, and with farm-houſes, almoſt all of brick, which are more frequent here. The lands are not ſtripped of trees, like thoſe on the other ſide; and as at this ſeaſon the fruit-trees begin to bloſſom, they are more diſtinguiſhable by their colours than at any other time of the year. The lands as far as South-River are cultivated for corn, which is grown almoſt every-where; for maize, which is not planted ſo early; and the reſt is laid out into meadows. In other reſpects, there

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is every-where the ſame negligence of tillage, wooden fences, and what is more diſagreeable and fatiguing to a traveller, a great number of gates to open. South-River is paſſed by a very good ferry-boat, at about two miles from its mouth in the bay; the paſſage is a league, the breadth of the river more than a mile, and its navigation does not extend three miles farther. At the head of the navigation there is an inſpection or exciſe office for tobacco, which is carried on by the ſame means as in Virginia, but with leſs care than upon James-River. The proſpect in paſſing the South-River is rich and agreeable; the ground riſes and falls in gentle undulations, and is well furniſhed with trees. The nature of the country beyond the river is the ſame, and much more variegated than on this ſide. At preſent they are preparing the lands for the planting of tobacco. After having worked the land it is thrown into ſmall hillocks: this is the mode of their actual labour in the fields. During that time the tobacco ſown upon beds prepared for that purpoſe, as I have obſerved in

ſpeaking of Virginia, begins to riſe up. In ſome fields it is kept covered under leaves, or dry branches of trees. In others where the fields are cloſer, or where there is a natural ſloping in the land in a good ſituation, it is not covered. The cultivation of tobacco, which had been very much neglected during ſeveral years, is more followed this year on account of the high price it bears in Europe; but the ſoil has been ſo long worked with this exhauſting produce, and is ſo badly manured (for manure is abſolutely neceſſary for tobacco when the ſoil is not newly broken up), that it is not capable of producing good crops. The corn is here very ſeldom attacked by the Heſſian fly, and the cultivators of this ſide of the bay are equally unacquainted with the cauſe of their being exempt from them as thoſe on the other ſide are with the reaſon why they are tormented with them.

During the laſt three days the weather has been what would be called very hot in ſummer, and there have been four days, during which it was ſo cold as to require a great

great coat to ride in. Theſe ſudden and irregular variations in the temperature are extremely incommodious.

The woods upon the road are but few, and theſe few which remain are cutting down to make room for the ſowing of tobacco. New land that is tolerably good will produce two crops of it following each other ſucceſſively; but after that it would be incapable of producing any thing without manure. In every place upon my journey I have obſerved the greateſt quantity of land, which I have ſeen to be in an exhauſted ſtate: never any manure, no reſtorative tillage, no change in the productions, nor any of thoſe ſimple proceſſes in agriculture which tend to invigorate the ſoil. Independently of the expences of making, and the cuſtoms to be overcome in eſtabliſhing an order of things ſo eſſentially uſeful, the planters give as a reaſon for continuing their bad ſyſtem of culture, the neceſſity there is of obtaining large crops of maize for the proviſion of their numerous ſlaves. This reaſon, which can ariſe only from want of reflection, or from lazineſs, may ſerve to prove however

that the inhabitants of Maryland begin to feel ſome inconvenience from their negroes.

The river of *Potakent*, which is paſſed at Mount-Pleaſant-ferry, is but about a hundred fathoms wide there, but this point is ſeventy-five miles from its mouth in the bay, and it is only five miles from Mount-Pleaſant, where it ceaſes to be navigable for veſſels of two hundred tons burden.

Green trees, of which there are but few to be ſeen in the eaſt part of Maryland, at leaſt in the counties which I have paſſed through, are much more abundant on this ſide; but not ſo much ſo as in many other ſtates. The cedar, the Scotch-pine, the cypreſs, and the ſpruce-tree, are the moſt common. There are alſo ſome pines called *pins du Lord*, but their number is but ſmall.

Upper-Marlborough is three miles from Mount-Pleaſant-ferry: it is the chief place of Prince George's-County. The court of juſtice was ſitting on the day I paſſed there; and the only inn of this ſmall village contains, or entertains, all thoſe whom buſineſs or curioſity always draws to a court. It was then crowded, and the certainty that it would

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be ſo had taken Mr. Cook from Annapolis, for the purpoſe of engaging me not to ſtop till I came to the houſe of Mr. Dixes, five miles further, for whom he had given me a letter. This mode is very much practiſed in Maryland and Virginia, where hoſpitality is the general character; and the delicacy of an European, which at firſt ſeems backward in profiting freely by this hoſpitality, ſoon becomes reconciled to it, when he ſees how ſimple and natural it is, and how the maſters of houſes who load a traveller with kindneſs ſeem to be pleaſed with him for having given them an opportunity of treating him in that manner. All agree in ſaying that this diſpoſition is more general in Maryland and Virginia than any-where elſe; but it is my duty to repeat that I have found it common throughout America.

Embracing the favour of Mr. Cook's letter, I went to Mr. Dixe's; a young woman carried it to him, and in a little time after I was introduced into the parlour of an old man who could hardly walk; but he received me in the beſt manner. He is not the maſter of the houſe; it belongs to the widow

widow of his brother, with whom he lodges, and to whom I was immediately preſented. She is a woman of about ſixty years of age, of very agreeable manners, with the deportment and tone of the beſt company. I was recommended to the old man; his infirm ſtate ſeemed to claim my moſt aſſiduous attention; it is of him then which I have the moſt to obſerve. This good old man, of ninety years of age, ſpoke with great animation, and particularly againſt France. He is a catholic, a prieſt, and a jeſuit: theſe titles are certainly ſufficient to juſtify the paſſion with which he expreſſed himſelf upon every thing relative to that country, *except the prieſts and the nobility, who, ſaid he, deſerve to have an abode in another country.* "I was reading," ſaid he, "a French book when you came in, and one of the beſt in your language; though I deteſt your country, peopled long ſince with atheiſts and villains, I like its language, for there are here and there good French works, better than in any other language." I was curious to know what my good old hoſt regarded as the maſter-piece of French literature. It was the

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mandate of the archbiſhop Chriſtopher of Beaumont againſt the decree of the parliament of Paris for the proſcription of the Jeſuits. "Oh! ſir," added he, "your people are the dregs of nations, a race of miſcreants. It is for the puniſhment of their ſins that God has permitted the preſent revolution; it is a ſcourge which he has in his hand to chaſtiſe that infidel people, and which he will never lay down till his wrath ſhall be appeaſed, and that will probably be a long time firſt, for he has a great many ſins to puniſh." It was not my intention to hurt the feelings of this old jeſuit, who all this time offered me wine, aſked me in the moſt cordial manner to dine with him, and engaged me to paſs ſeveral days at his houſe. I only repreſented to him, in a gentle manner, that it appeared to me that the wrath of God would not be confined to the chaſtiſement of the French people; and that they might alſo be conſidered as a ſcourge which God would make uſe of to puniſh ſome other powers, ſuch as the emperor for example, upon whom the late victories of Buonaparte fell, and our holy father the

Pope,

Pope, who at that time was in ſuch danger, and who nevertheleſs was ſurely not a ſinner. "O! ſir," replied he, "all this is only a temporary evil to our holy father; God will declare himſelf in his favour when he thinks it a proper ſeaſon for that purpoſe: but he will never pardon this race of atheiſts and raſcals; and you will ſoon ſee them diſperſed and annihilated, unleſs that God will ſuffer them to be recalled to the faith and practice of their fathers: but I fear that the goodneſs of God cannot go ſo far towards a people who have ſo long continued to amaſs ſuch enormous crimes upon their heads. "In ſhort," continued this exaſperated old man, "do you deſire to know the true cauſe of the French revolution? A great number of our brave catholics here ſee it in the writings of Voltaire and Rouſſeau; but I think otherwiſe. They were doubtleſs very worthleſs men, whoſe writings have ſpread very bad principles, but that is not the cauſe of the French revolution; it aroſe entirely from the deſtruction of the ſociety of Jeſuits. A people who has committed ſuch a crime was a fooliſh and abominable race, and who would

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deſtroy of courſe all power, all property, and overthrow all the laws, ſince they had deſtroyed an order of men ſo uſeful, ſo ſacred, and ſo obviouſly the favourites of God." I was ſcrupulous of contradicting my aged hoſt, otherwiſe ſo obliging, whom I ſhould have ſo little convinced, and whom my opinion would have ſo badly recompenſed for a good reception. It was neceſſary to deplore a little with him the deſtruction of ſuch a holy ſociety, the deſtruction of the principle of all virtue, and of all order, and to acknowledge that the true cauſe of the French revolution was in the abolition of the Jeſuits, where, till then, I confeſſed I had been ſo little enlightened as not to have ſought for it. I had alſo to attend to a young babbler of a prieſt, who was not willing to grant that the deſtruction of the Jeſuits was the moſt hideous and the moſt unpardonable of crimes. In this manner I pleaſed my old Jeſuit, and amuſed myſelf by contradicting the young pedant, until dinner-time. It was Wedneſday in paſſion week, the dinner was therefore very ſparing, quite catholic, and conſequently not very reſtorative to a traveller.

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I do not know whether my friends will excuſe me for making ſuch a long article of this dotard; but at leaſt it will be an additional proof to this indubitable and well-known truth, that intereſt and the paſſions are the ſpectacles through which men view the greateſt events. Marcel ſaw the intereſt of kingdoms and the great ſecret of diplomacy in the art of dancing, in its propagation, and as he ſaid in a minuet; and the old Rev. Mr. Dixes ſaw the French revolution in the deſtruction of the Jeſuits.

As to the reſt, the manner of treating the injuries of my country excepted, it is impoſſible to have ſhewn more kindneſs for me than old Mr. Dixes did, and to have been more obliging and more civil than Mrs. Dixes, his ſiſter-in-law, who is really amiable, and appears to be altogether a very good woman.

I had met in paſſing over Mount-Pleaſant-ferry a young man, who underſtanding that I intended to go to Federal-City, propoſed that we ſhould travel together, and promiſed to meet me at the houſe of the old jeſuit. He was faithful to his appointment.

Two

Two other inhabitants of Federal-City were with him, ſo that by their company I was eaſed of the inquietude common to ſtrangers travelling in Maryland, leſt they ſhould loſe their way, for there are no direction poſts by the road ſide to point out the true way, and the houſes are ſo thinly ſcattered, that a traveller may wander about a great deal without having an opportunity of being informed of the right road.

The politics of my new travelling companions were very different from thoſe of the houſe I had juſt quitted. "Is it true," ſaid one of them to me, "*that France has declared war againſt America?*" "I believe nothing of it," anſwered I; "France loves America ſincerely; ſhe has a little quarrel with the government, but ſhe wiſhes for nothing more than the happineſs and proſperity of the people of America."

"Theſe reports of a declaration of war are falſe, and ſpread by the merchants who wiſh to raiſe the price of their commodities, or by the Engliſh who wiſh the Americans to hate the French." "Ah! ſir, they will never ſucceed in that; and ſhould France be in the wrong,

wrong, ſhe has rendered us ſervices ſufficient not to be treated ſo rigorouſly: and as for me, if this country ſhould go to war with France, I would go over to the ſide of the French, and take my friends with me." "And I alſo"—"And I alſo," ſaid the other two. "If an American were to fight againſt a Frenchman," ſaid they in the courſe of their converſation, in which I took part only for the ſake of ſupporting it, "that would be like fighting againſt his father." "And worſe ſtill," ſaid another, "for our father has only given us life, and it very often happens that he does not give us any money. France has given us liberty, advanced us millions when our paper currency was in great diſcredit, and that at a time when ſhe was not ſure that we ſhould ever be able to repay it; and ſhe has lent us troops and ſhips. Theſe villanous Engliſh merchants wiſh us to forget all this, that they may ſell us their merchandize the dearer, but they will not ſucceed in their deſign."

The affection which theſe brave fellows ſo plainly manifeſted to have for France was united with an attachment for the unfortunate

fortunate M. de la Fayette; and it is remarked, that it is the ſame throughout America, and that the ſentiment of hatred for France, and indifference about la Fayette, are alſo found united in the oppoſite party. "Is it not ſhameful," ſaid my fellow travellers, "that the United States ſhould have done nothing for that brave man who has rendered us ſo many ſervices? If the preſident had demanded him from the Emperor, it is certain he would have given him up to us, for he belongs to us." "Without doubt," added they, "the preſident thought that he did well in not demanding him, but he would have done better if he had, and alſo if he had not made that infamous treaty; and be aſſured, ſir, that we are very numerous in every part of America who think the ſame."

I detail this converſation—to which I affirm that I add nothing—in the firſt place, perhaps, becauſe it gave me pleaſure, and then becauſe it is, whatever the Engliſh may ſay of it, the expreſſion of the ſentiments of a great majority of the people of America; ſentiments which France ought carefully to maintain without abuſing them, and which,

in the mean time, ſhe would put an end to by alienating them, if ſhe were not to conduct herſelf with juſtice and liberality towards America—if ſhe does not ſpeedily put a ſtop to all the piracies which are exerciſed at this time by her commiſſioners in the Weſt-Indies, at which every honeſt Frenchman revolts who is a friend to his country, under whatever denomination he may come.

I could every day recount ſimilar examples, for there are but few taverns at which I ſtop where I do not hear the ſame expreſſions of attachment, from which I become every day more perſuaded of the neceſſity of ſpreading in this country wiſe and moderate writings, which ſhould diſplay the actual political ſituation of France with the United States, and ſhew that ſhe is the friend of America, and that it is her intereſt always to be ſo.

The country from *Upper Marlborough* to *Eaſtern-branch* riſes ſucceſſively, and everywhere preſents the ſame range of barren and bad cultivated lands. From the tops of the mountains which border upon the Eaſtern-branch,

branch, the river Potowmack is ſeen far beyond George-Town, and as far as Alexandria. The Eaſtern-branch is alſo ſeen in its courſe for five or ſix miles; and, in ſhort, there is a proſpect of the whole ſite of the new city, the public and private buildings of which may be diſtinguiſhed as they riſe: this view is ſublime and beautiful, but ſufficiently confined by the heights beyond the Potowmack to enable the eye to embrace the various objects of it without being loſt in its immenſity.

The county of Prince George, of which Upper Marlborough is the chief place, is peopled by about twenty-two thouſand inhabitants, of which twelve thouſand are negro ſlaves. Tobacco is cultivated here in a conſiderably large quantity, and is reckoned the beſt in Maryland.

It may be remarked, that in this county, as in almoſt all the others in this ſtate, the old towns or villages are built at the place where the rivers begin to be navigable, becauſe tobacco being formerly the only article of exportation, it was neceſſary that the warehouſes for inſpecting it ſhould be placed

in ſuch ſituations, and they have ſerved as a pattern to other houſes.

The Eaſtern-branch is paſſed in a tolerably good boat, a little too flat, and a great deal too ſmall for the quantity of horſes which are taken into it. I paſſed in this boat with ten horſes and a carriage, and was uneaſy till I arrived on the other ſide. The paſſage over this river is from three quarters of a mile to a league. After having croſſed it you enter into Federal-City, that is to ſay, in its ſite, for at preſent there are only a few houſes to be ſeen in this capital of the United States—in this metropolis of North America.

But as Federal-City is by its deſtination, or at leaſt by the project of its deſtination, a principal point in the territory, as well as in the interior policy of the United States, I ſhall ſpeak of it at ſome length, and in ſuch a manner that the hiſtory of this great project may be well comprehended; and of the means employed for its execution, of its ſituation, actual and deſigned, as well as a mature examination of all the circumſtances enable me to foreſee.

FEDERAL-

FEDERAL-CITY.

A little time after the conſtitution of the United States was made, its partizans—and no one was then accuſed of not being ſo—ſaw, that to make the ſyſtem of confederation complete it was neceſſary to eſtabliſh a general ſeat of government in a central point of the United States, independent of every particular ſtate, and of which the ſovereignty ſhould belong to the Union. As the general government exerciſed a judicial authority apart from that of the ſeveral ſtates, the vicinity of its tribunals to thoſe of a particular ſtate, which, having a juriſprudence of its own, might inflict a different puniſhment from that of the Union for the ſame crime, and even on the ſame ſpot, was a great inconvenience, and was to be remedied. The advantages reſulting from the reſidence of the general government in a particular ſtate might be the occaſion of jealouſy among the ſtates, and cauſe the diſſolution of the Union; and this ſource of diſcontent it was neceſſary to remove; neither

Philadelphia nor New-York was placed in the centre of the ſtates; and the deputies of the ſouthern ſtates being removed at a greater diſtance from the ſeat of the government than thoſe of the north, this circumſtance might be a cauſe of diſſatisfaction to the former, and interrupt that harmony it was ſo important to preſerve. To conclude; the ſovereign government having ſomething of a fiction in its exiſtence, its eſtabliſhment in a territory belonging ſolely to the Union, and in which it could exerciſe all acts of ſovereignty without any mixture of other ſovereign authority, would give it a greater appearance of reality: ſuch were the principal reaſons which were in fact plauſible for adopting the ſcheme of placing the reſidence of the general government in a territory abſolutely ceded to the Union. In July 1790 the Congreſs paſſed a law to this effect, in which the following are the principal proviſions:

1ſt. To authorize the general government to accept, for the permanent ſeat of its reſidence, a territory which ſhall not exceed ten miles ſquare, at the confluence of the Potow-

mack

mack and the Eaſtern-branch, or *Connogecheque*; but with a reſervation to the ſtate in whoſe limits the territory at preſent is, of the exerciſe of its ſovereignty without impeachment by this law, till the actual eſtabliſhment of the general government in ſuch territory, unleſs the Congreſs ſhall provide otherwiſe by a ſubſequent law.

2d. To authorize the preſident of the United States to appoint, and continue with ſalaries, three commiſſioners to ſurvey, meaſure, and deſcribe the limits of ſuch diſtrict, with the limitations above provided; the ſaid commiſſioners to act under the direction and control of the preſident of the United States.—Two of the three, at leaſt, agreeing to each act.

3d. To authorize the ſaid commiſſioners to purchaſe or receive the ceſſion of ſuch lands on the eaſt bank of the Potowmack as the preſident of the United States ſhall judge proper for the uſe of the general government; and to enjoin the ſaid commiſſioners to have in preparation on the firſt Monday in December 1800 the buildings neceſſary for the reception of the Congreſs, the

preſident, and other officers of the United States: the whole to be erected upon plans adopted by the preſident.

4th. To authorize and enjoin the preſident to accept donations of money, which may be contributed towards the defraying the expences of ſuch acquiſitions and buildings.

5th. To declare, that on the firſt Monday of December 1800 the government of the United States ſhall be transferred to ſuch diſtrict and place as is before mentioned. To require, that the ſeveral offices attached to the government ſhall, in like manner, be transferred to the ſame place, under the ſuperintendance of thoſe who at the time being ſhall be at the head of ſuch offices; and that thenceforth the buſineſs of ſuch offices ſhall be tranſacted only in the ſaid place: and to aſſign for the payment of the expences occaſioned by ſuch removal the duties on importation and tonnage to the extent neceſſary.

This law, which paſſed while the Congreſs ſat at New York, provided alſo, that the government of the United States ſhould be removed

removed to Philadelphia, to remain there till the firſt Monday of December 1800, the period of its inſtallation in its permanent reſidence.

The Congreſs had been previouſly aſſured of the favourable diſpoſition of the States of Virginia and Maryland towards this plan; both one and the other having, in preceding ſittings of their legiſlatures, offered to cede the part of their territory neceſſary to its completion. The ſeat of the government certainly could not be better choſen: it was not only central, but was at a diſtance from all danger of being diſturbed by a foreign power, in any caſe of war; and was a ſituation favourable for the erection of a great commercial city, with ample means of being furniſhed with proviſions, and in a fine and healthy ſpot.

As the ſtates of Virginia and Maryland had an evident advantage in the eſtabliſhment of the government in the place choſen by this law, they were active to forward the execution of the ſcheme, towards which Virginia gave the union the ſum of a hundred and twenty thouſand dollars, and Maryland,

ryland, ſeventy-two thouſand dollars. The proprietors of lands on the ſpot choſen for the new city had an intereſt ſtill more immediate in the plan. They gave the Union the abſolute property of the half of the lots of which the city was to be compoſed. They alſo gratuitouſly ceded all the ground neceſſary for ſtreets and ſquares, with a reſervation of eighty dollars to be paid for every acre employed in forming public gardens. The lots remaining in the hands of individual proprietors, and thoſe that became the property of the federal government, were to be ſo diſtributed that individuals and the government ſhould equally divide the advantage and inconvenience of the reſpective ſituations of the ſeveral lots.

In March 1796 the Congreſs paſſed a law, by which the commiſſioners were empowered to borrow, with the ſanction of the preſident of the United States, the ſum of three hundred thouſand dollars, to defray the expences of the eſtabliſhment ordered by the law of 1790, with proviſoes, that they ſhould not borrow more than two hundred thouſand dollars in the ſame year, nor pay more than

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ſix per cent for the loan; that the ſums borrowed ſhould be redeemable in 1803; and that the lots in the city belonging to the government, not ſold, and deſtined to be ſo, ſhould be the pledge for the loan, and the means of its re-payment, the United States undertaking to make good the deficiency, if there ſhould be any. The ſame law enjoined the commiſſioners to make a return every ſix months to the ſecretary of the treaſury of expenditures of the ſums thus borrowed.

The commiſſioners, therefore, had at their diſpoſition a hundred and ninety-two thouſand dollars, the donations of Virginia and Maryland; and three hundred thouſand dollars, the loan authorized by the Congreſs, independent of the produce of the ſale of lots, the property of the general government, which they were empowered to ſell, with certain reſtrictions impoſed by the preſident of the United States.

The navigation of the Potowmack was interrupted in many places below Cumberland, to the diſtance of a hundred and ninety-two miles from the ſeat of the new city; but

but more eſpecially at fifteen miles above George-Town, where there was a great fall, and at a place ſix miles nearer, where there was a leſs conſiderable fall. A company had been incorporated by the ſtates of Virginia and Maryland, in 1784, by the name of the *Potowmack Company*; with a grant of tolls on different canals they had undertaken. The adoption of the ſcheme of eſtabliſhing the general government on the banks of the Potowmack, gave new activity to theſe undertakings, which had begun to languiſh. In 1795 the ſhares of this company, which at its eſtabliſhment amounted to five hundred, at four hundred and forty-four dollars each, were increaſed to ſix hundred; and thus the company had the diſpoſal of two hundred and ſeventy thouſand four hundred dollars to improve the navigation of the Potowmack. The ſtates of Virginia and Maryland were moreover particularly intereſted in the ſucceſs of the company, by being proprietors of a great number of its ſhares.

When the undertakings of this company ſhall be finiſhed, the produce of an immenſe extent of country, which at preſent is conveyed

veyed by land to Philadelphia and Baltimore, will find a more ample, ready, and leſs expenſive market through the means of this great river; and Federal-City will acquire new reſources both for its conſumption and its commerce, adding greatly to the natural advantages of its ſituation.

The point of land which ſeparates the Potowmack from the eaſt branch, and which is within the ſite of the new city, is, at different times of the year, not only difficult, but dangerous to double: and the Eaſt-branch preſenting the greateſt depth of water, and the ſafeſt anchorage for ſhips, it became an object of importance to join the Potowmack to that branch by a canal; beſides, that ſuch a canal would be of great advantage to the new city. Two lotteries were authorized by the ſtate of Maryland, in 1798, for the forming ſuch a canal; each lottery conſiſting of a hundred and ſeventy-five thouſand dollars, of which a profit of fifteen per cent, that is to ſay, twenty-ſix thouſand two hundred and fifty thouſand dollars, was granted to the canal.

Such were the means employed for the eſtabliſh-

eſtabliſhment of Federal-City, whoſe ſite extends more than three miles along the banks of the Potowmack, and the Eaſt-branch; and includes four thouſand one hundred and twenty-four acres ſquare.

In America, where, more than in any other country in the world, a deſire for wealth is the prevailing paſſion, there are few ſchemes which are not made the means of extenſive ſpeculations; and that of the erecting of Federal-City preſented irreſiſtible temptations, which were not in fact neglected.

Mr. Morris was among the firſt to perceive the probability of immenſe gain in ſpeculations in that quarter; and, in conjunction with Meſſrs. Nicholſon and Greenleaf, a very ſhort time after the adoption of the plan purchaſed every lot he could lay hold on, either from the commiſſioners or individual proprietors; that is to ſay, every lot that either one or the other would ſell at that period. Of the commiſſioners he bought ſix thouſand lots at the price of eighty dollars per lot, each containing five thouſand two hundred and ſixty-five ſquare feet. The

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conditions of his bargain with the commiſſioners, which was concluded in 1793, were, that fifteen hundred of the lots ſhould be choſen by him in the north-eaſt quarter of the city, and the remaining four thouſand five hundred wherever Mr. Morris and his partners choſe to ſelect them; that he ſhould erect an hundred and twenty houſes of brick, and with two ſtories, on theſe lots within the ſpace of ſeven years; that he ſhould not ſell any lot before the firſt of January 1796, nor without the like condition of building; and finally, that the payment for the lots ſhould be completed within ſeven years, to commence on the 1ſt of May 1794; a ſeventh part to be paid annually—that is to ſay, about ſixty-eight thouſand dollars yearly, the purchaſe money for the whole being four hundred and eighty thouſand dollars.

The lots purchaſed by Mr. Morris from individuals amounted to nearly the ſame number, and were bought at the ſame price. The periods for payment varied with the different proprietors, and are not of importance in this general hiſtory of Federal-City.

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The ſale made to Mr. Morris was the only one of like extent made either by the commiſſioners or individuals. Expecting a higher price, the commiſſioners waited for a time when demands for habitations would be more numerous. The private proprietors acted on the ſame principle, and both one and the other, in the ſale made to Mr. Morris, conſidered it chiefly as the means of haſtening the completion of the city, by the inducement he would have to ſell part of his lots, and ſo augment the number of perſons intereſted in the rapid progreſs of the undertaking. Mr. Morris, in fact, ſold about a thouſand of his lots within eighteen months of his purchaſe. The building of a houſe for the preſident, and a place for the ſittings of the Congreſs, excited, in the purchaſers of lots, the hope of a new influx of ſpeculations. The public papers were filled with exaggerated praiſes of the new city; accounts of the rapidity of its progreſs towards completion; in a word, with all the artifices which trading people in every part of the world are accuſtomed to employ in the diſpoſal of their wares, and which are perfectly known,

known, and amply practiſed in this new world.

Mr. Law and Mr. Dickinſon, two gentlemen that had lately arrived from India, and both with great wealth, General Howard, General Lee, and two or three wealthy Dutch merchants, were the perſons who bought the greateſt number of lots of Mr. Morris; but none more than Mr. Law, who purchaſed four hundred and forty-five lots. The loweſt they gave was two hundred and ninety-three dollars per lot—or rather five pence for each ſquare foot, of Maryland money; for all the lots were not abſolutely of the ſame extent. Many of the lots ſold for ſix, eight, and ten pence per ſquare foot; the laſt comers conſtantly paying a higher price, and the ſituation of the lots alſo making a difference in their value. Some of the more recent purchaſers, in order to have one or more of the entire ſquares into which the whole was divided, or for other purpoſes of their ſpeculations, made their purchaſes of the commiſſioners, paying at the ſame rate for them. The bargains were all clogged with the ſame conditions to build as that of

Mr. Morris. The number of lots ſold in this manner amounted to ſix hundred. Each of the purchaſers choſe his ground according to the opinion he had of its general advantages, and of its being in a neighbourhood that would the moſt readily be filled with houſes. The neighbourhood of the preſident's houſe, of the *Capitol*, of George-Town, the banks of the Potowmack, the Point, and the banks of the Eaſt-branch, were the places chiefly choſen by the firſt purchaſers.

The opinion that the ground marked out for the whole city would ſoon be filled was ſo general, and the preſident of the United States and the commiſſioners were ſo much of the ſame opinion, that in their regulations they prohibited the cultivating any portion of the ground otherwiſe than for gardens; or to build houſes with leſs than two ſtories, or even to build houſes of wood.

Theſe regulations were, however, ſpeedily afterwards withdrawn; and the original proprietors had liberty to incloſe and cultivate at their pleaſure the ground they had not diſpoſed of.

Mr.

Mr. Blodget, one of the moſt conſiderable and intelligent ſpeculators of Philadelphia, having purchaſed a large quantity of lots, under the pretence of forwarding the building of the city, but more probably with the real motive of diſpoſing moſt ſecurely and advantageouſly of his acquiſitions, made two lotteries for the diſpoſal of them. The principal lot of the firſt was a handſome tavern, built between the capitol and the Preſident's houſe, valued at fifty thouſand dollars; the three principal lots of the ſecond were three houſes to be erected near the capitol, of the reſpective value of twenty-five thouſand, fifteen thouſand, and ten thouſand, dollars. Theſe lotteries were made before the prohibition of the ſtate of Maryland to make private lotteries, without the authority of the legiſlature. They were powerfully patronized by the commiſſioners, who conſidered them as the means of advancing the building of the city. It appears that theſe lotteries were attended with the effect propoſed to himſelf by Mr. Blodget, that of gaining a large profit on the diſpoſal

of his lots, and that he was the only perſon not deceived in the tranſaction.

The ſpeculations of Mr. Morris, and the ſucceeding purchaſers, had not the ſame rapid ſucceſs. After the plan of the city had been for a while admired for its beauty and magnificence, people began to perceive that it was too extenſive, too gigantic, for the actual circumſtances of the United States, and even for thoſe which muſt follow for a ſeries of years, admitting that no intervening accidents arreſted the progreſs of their proſperity. It was diſcovered that the immenſe extent of ground marked out for the city would not be ſo ſpeedily covered with houſes as was expected; and every proprietor of lots intrigued to get the neighbourhood of his lots firſt inhabited. From that inſtant the common intereſt ceaſed, and the proprietors became rivals. Each began to build in his own quarter, with the hope of drawing thither the new-comers. Each vaunted of the advantages of that ſide of the city where his property lay, and depreciated others. The public papers were no longer filled

filled with the excellencies of Federal-City, but with thoſe of one or other of its quarters.

The commiſſioners were not altogether clear from this venal conteſt. Two of them poſſeſſed lots near George-Town; and if that had not been the caſe, their habits and prejudices relative to the city would have determined their opinion, as to the advantage of beginning to build in one quarter or another, and would not have permitted them to remain indifferent ſpectators of the emulation of the ſeveral proprietors.

There were four principal quarters to which different intereſts had drawn the greateſt number of houſes. The inhabitants of George-Town, who had purchaſed a great many lots in their neighbourhood, maintained that a ſmall town already built was the proper ſpot to begin the new city, by facilitating and augmenting its reſources. They boaſted of the port of George-Town, and repreſented the commerce already belonging to the place as a favourable opening to the general commerce of the city.

The proprietors of lots near the Point declared that ſituation to be the moſt airy,

healthy, and beautiful in the city; advantageous to commerce, as it lay along the banks of both rivers, and as being a central ſituation between the capitol and the Preſident's houſe, from each of which it was equally diſtant.

The proprietors of the Eaſt-branch contemned the port of George-Town, and the banks of the Potowmack, which are not ſecure in winter from ſhoals of ice; they decried the Point, which, placed between the two rivers, was far from being able completely to enjoy the advantage of either; and boaſted of their own port, becauſe of its great depth, and its ſecurity from ice, and from the moſt prevailing winds. They vaunted of their vicinity to the capitol, which muſt be the common centre of affairs, it being the place of the ſittings of the Congreſs, and in which all the members muſt meet, at leaſt once in the day, and from which their diſtance was not more than three quarters of a mile.

The proprietors in the neighbourhood of the capitol contended, that Federal-City was not neceſſarily a commercial town; that

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the eſſential point was to raiſe a city for the eſtabliſhment of the Congreſs and government; that the natural progreſs was, firſt to build houſes round the capitol, and then to extend them towards the Preſident's houſe, which, although of a ſecondary conſideration, was nevertheleſs next in importance to the capitol; and that every effort ſhould be made, for the convenience of Congreſs and the facilitating of public affairs, to unite, by a continuation of ſtreets and buildings, theſe two principal points of the government.

Thus each proprietor ſupported with his arguments the intereſts of the quarter where the maſs of his property lay; but he built notwithſtanding with great caution, and with a conſtant fear of ſome of the oppoſite intereſts prevailing.

The commiſſioners, to whom was entruſted the erection of public edifices, were accuſed by the proprietors that lay at a diſtance from George-Town of paying an undue attention to the completion of the Preſident's houſe, which was in their neighbourhood; of deſigning to eſtabliſh the public-

offices there, and, conſequently, to neglect the capitol; in a word, of being partial to George-Town to the injury of the three other quarters of the town.

Each of theſe opinions relative to the ſpot at which they ſhould begin to build the city might find advocates, even among diſintereſted people, regarding only the public advantage; but the public advantage was no motive of any of the rival parties.

This ſtate of things continues at preſent. The Preſident's houſe is ſufficiently advanced to be covered in this year; that wing of the capitol which is at preſent begun (for the plan of that edifice is ſo extenſive, that the execution of two thirds of it has been abandoned to an indefinite period), may, perhaps, be covered in during the ſucceeding year; and about a hundred and fifty houſes are ſcattered over the vaſt ſurface traced out for the city, each of the four contending quarters having from thirty to forty, for the moſt part very diſtant from each other.

The publicity of theſe circumſtances is no doubt one of the principal hindrances of an acceſſion of new adventurers. The ſame

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cauſes have checked the efforts of the preſent proprietors; among whom Meſſrs. Morris, Nicholſon, and Greenleaf, are moreover embarraſſed by the ſtate of their affairs, having pledged their property for the payment of their debts, and being in fact diſabled from making the neceſſary advances to retrieve their affairs, or even to fulfil their conditions of their contract in building. Laſt year they built, or began, forty houſes of brick, in different parts of the city.

From the concurrence of theſe circumſtances, it is to be expected that few houſes will be begun this year. This at leaſt is the general apprehenſion of the perſons moſt intereſted in the growth of the city. Few lots are at preſent ſold; there is more public fear, but eſpecially more jealouſy among the proprietors, than any other diſpoſition; and theſe are not favourable to the proſperity of the new eſtabliſhment. Federal-City has alſo enemies in the ſtate of Pennſylvania, who reluctantly ſee the Congreſs on the eve of departing from them; and even in many parts of the ſtates of Virginia and Maryland, who regret the ſums which the public expenditure

penditure will draw to this point, each being eager more immediately to partake of the advantage.

He who contemplates the ſubject, without intereſt and paſſion, having caſt his eye over the limits of this great plan for a city, need not enter into the particular circumſtances that aggravate the evil, to augur unfavourably on the promptitude of the execution of the plan, or even of its practicability. The idea of forming a city for the ſeat of the general government, having no dependence on any of the ſtates, is at once grand and delightful. The ſite of the city, as I have already obſerved, is well choſen; if indeed it had not been more politic to place the Congreſs at a diſtance from a maritime city, to preſerve it from the real danger of the direct influence of commerce on its deliberations. The plan of the city is both judicious and noble; but it is in fact the grandeur and magnificence of the plan which renders the conception no better than a dream.

The plan of the city, I have already ſtated, includes four thouſand one hundred and twenty-

twenty-four acres. Of theſe, ſeven hundred and twelve are allotted to ſixteen ſtreets, ſeverally bearing the names of the ſixteen ſtates; to other ſtreets of leſs magnitude, ſquares, and public gardens. The three thouſand four hundred and twelve acres which remain, being the property of the original proprietors and the Union, contain twenty-three thouſand lots of houſes, excluſive of three thouſand feet of lots ſet aſide for quays, whoſe price the commiſſioners have fixed at ſixteen pence per foot, in the front, with about eighty feet in depth, ſome of which, but very few in number, being already ſold.

The capitol is at the diſtance of one mile and a half from the Preſident's houſe; and three quarters of a mile, at leaſt, from the neareſt part of that quarter on the banks of the river, where the intereſts of commerce will draw merchants, if ever they eſtabliſh themſelves in any number in this city, together with the different deſcriptions of perſons depending on them. Excluſive of the inconvenience of the great diſtance between the place where the Congreſs holds its

its fittings, and the Preſident's houſe, which will be every day more felt, it will require more than three hundred houſes to fill the interval, without extending the buildings on either ſide. Houſes muſt alſo be built round the capitol, and round the Preſident's houſe, to ſupply the neceſſaries of theſe eſtabliſhments. Thus, to eſtimate the houſes to make the junction between theſe two points at five hundred, would be to make the computation too low; and, after all, this would form only a ſingle ſtreet, of which there is not even a ſingle houſe built.

This quarter, no doubt, is a convenient reſidence for the members of Congreſs, and a fit place for the building a few ſhops and taverns; but it is not the ſpot on which either people of buſineſs in general, or thoſe who prefer the moſt agreeable ſituation, will be drawn. It is beſide the quarter where the preſent proprietors have the leaſt inducement to build, the greater part of their lots being ſituated at a diſtance, and if the interval is not filled, the communication between theſe two important points will be impracticable in winter; for it is ſcarcely to be

be ſuppoſed that the government will pave and light the ſtreets at their own expence.

Two thouſand houſes would not fill one of the other quarters of this vaſt city, ſo as to connect it with either of the two principal points, the capitol, or the Preſident's houſe; and if even any one of the quarters was filled up, the other quarters, which the preſent poſſeſſors of lots are deeply intereſted in completing alſo, would be deſtitute of habitations, or would be ſo ſeparated from the quarter that ſhould be completed, as to be nothing better than ſo many villages perfectly cut off from the town.

Cities have, indeed, in general commenced with a ſmall number of houſes, to which others have been ſucceſſively added; but here there are two centres, at the diſtance of a mile and a half from each other. And it is to be conſidered that this city ought to be already formed for the reception of the Congreſs, the Preſident, and the foreign miniſters. It ought to be completed ſo far as to afford theſe public characters the accommodations to which they are entitled; and which they will be the leſs diſpoſed to ſacrifice,

ſacrifice, as they have been accuſtomed to enjoy them in Philadelphia to the whole extent of which America is ſuſceptible.

When it is ſaid, as I hear it continually repeated here, that the actual reſidence of the government will promptly draw after it all the accommodations neceſſary, it is forgotten that thoſe who are the members of this government, and their dependants, little taken with the idea of this key-ſtone of the arch of federaliſm, will not patiently ſee themſelves deprived, even for a while, of the moſt ſimple conveniences of life. And when perſons, paying little regard to the convenience of theſe public characters, rely on the faith of Congreſs, and expect to ſee the government transferred to Federal-City in 1800, they do not reaſon with more foreſight; for, even if that ſhould happen, which I expect, but which many doubt, that the government of the United States will be eſtabliſhed in Federal-City in 1800, to diſcharge the engagements of the Congreſs, and in ſome degree to juſtify the public expenditure of money there, the general diſcontent of thoſe who compoſe the govern-

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ment would render this merely a temporary meaſure, which would be ſucceeded by ſtill more diſaſtrous effects than the continuation of the ſeat of the government where it is. There is leſs public ſpirit in this part of the world than in Europe; or at leaſt of that ſpecies of public ſpirit which ſacrifices particular intereſts to the general welfare, or even to the vain-glory of accompliſhing a great national work. What are called convenience, eaſe, and comfort, are not perhaps exactly the ſame things that receive thoſe names in Europe; but whatever extent the Americans give to theſe things, they eagerly embrace them, cleave to them, and will poſſeſs them at any price: and it muſt be acknowledged, it would not be greatly exaggerating the idea of comfort, to deſire to be in ſafety from being plunged in the mud for want of pavements, or breaking one's neck for want of lamps. And theſe muſt be wanting in Federal-City for many years to come, from the too great extent of the plan, and the diſtance between the two centres of public affairs.

Uſually,

Uſually, in the eſtabliſhment of a city, the firſt proprietors and the firſt inhabitants heartily concur in the ſucceſs of the enterprize. In this place all the ſtrength of the community is loſt. There is no common effort, becauſe the intereſts of the ſeveral individuals are really different. Thoſe who purchaſed lots of the commiſſioners with a condition of building, endeavour to relieve themſelves from the condition. The unfortunate ſituation of the affairs of Meſſrs. Morris, Nicholſon, and Greenleaf, has, in fact, relieved them from it. Thoſe who purchaſed ſhares from them avail themſelves of their incapability to ſue them, and neglect the condition of which thoſe unfortunate men are guarantees to the government. The commiſſioners act with more or leſs indulgence to the proprietors of lots, ſometimes waving, and ſometimes enforcing the obligation to build. They perceived, that if even the conditions were ſtrictly executed in the ſix or ſeven hundred lots they had ſold, they would not yield more than the ſame number of brick houſes, which being ſcattered

tered through the great extent of the city would contribute in no important degree to its completion.

In the case of a town growing in the same spot from motives of commerce, it would naturally commence in the quarter most convenient to trade, and would increase with more or less rapidity in proportion as its advantages were felt. Each of the new inhabitants, having a complete interest in the improvement of the place, and coming with an entire free will, would cheerfully submit to the inconveniences of a new-formed establishment, with a conviction that one by one they would disappear, since the natural advantages the situation afforded to commerce, being the basis of the establishment, it could not fail of success, and meanwhile the increasing gain of the individuals would contribute to their patience. In Federal-City the case is quite otherwise. It has no other base than the Union of the several states; and if this foundation is not already destroyed, it cannot be denied, that it is at least shaken in that degree to excite distrust in all speculations that must rest on its solidity for their

ſucceſs. Commerce is no more than a ſecondary object in this city, and ſuch of its inhabitants as are engaged in commerce, are, for the moſt part, at ſuch a diſtance from the quarter that is the ſeat of the government, that two or three large towns might ſtand in the ſpace between them. The majority of the members of Congreſs will come to this city with a diſſatisfaction to the plan, and a diſpoſition to decry and exaggerate its defects. Such among them as we may ſuppoſe to be inimical to the federal government, and conſequently to the eſtabliſhment of this place, will find in the enormous public expences already incurred here, and thoſe ſtill greater that muſt hereafter be incurred, an ample field for their oppoſition; which will gain acceſſion of numbers from the inconvenience to which all will be ſubject. It is impoſſible to overlook the influence which in every country in the world the tempers and views of individuals have on public affairs; or if overlooked, it is miſerably to miſunderſtand human nature.

There are, moreover, a multitude of powerful reaſons that give probability to the

opinion,

opinion, that the Union will not remain unbroken for a great number of years. There are ſo many ſymptoms of its diſſolution, that it is idle to imagine that Federal-City will arrive at the execution of the tenth part of its plan, before that event, which a thouſand circumſtances may haſten, ſhall take place. The prevalence of theſe reaſons with many Americans, who dwell on them either from an apprehenſion of their ſolidity, or a deſire of their being verified, is in itſelf an obſtacle to the growth of the city, without thoſe difficulties it otherwiſe muſt encounter.

From this combination of circumſtances, which I have endeavoured to detail as briefly as poſſible, no perſon can conclude, that Federal-City, laid out and even begun as it is, will ever reach that degree of improvement to render it even a tolerable abode for the kind of perſons for whom it was deſigned.

We are not to be ſurprized that the authors of the plan gave it ſo great an extent, for it is probable it belonged to the dignity of their project to deſcribe a vaſt plan which they left to time to fill up. But it is im-

poſſible to conſider with too much aſtoniſhment the conduct of thoſe who preſided over the commencement of the city, which was of a nature to render impracticable a plan that time might ſooner or later have forwarded, if political events had not interpoſed in oppoſition. We cannot ſufficiently wonder, that they did not apply their efforts to one point; for inſtance, that they did not protect and encourage the firſt buildings by the natural aid of George-Town, which, had they commenced in its vicinity, ſmall as it is, would have been an important motive to an influx of adventurers. But if the poor vanity of commencing Federal-City independent of the reſources of George-Town, ought to have prevented the commencement of buildings cloſe to that town, no one place has been choſen for the commencement with probability of ſucceſs. At preſent the miſchief appears to me irreparable; at leaſt, fatal to the objects which firſt gave birth to this eſtabliſhment.

Five hundred thouſand dollars have already been expended on the part of the public, and nothing is erected but the walls, timbers,

timbers, and ſtaircaſes, of a wing of the capitol, and the preſident's houſe. To complete theſe two buildings, and to erect others for the different departments of the adminiſtration, ſix hundred thouſand dollars are ſtill wanting, on the computation of the commiſſioners themſelves; and even then there will be no courts of juſtice, priſons, churches, pavements, lamps, fountains, or public gardens.

No doubt it is poſſible, it is even probable, that ſome parts of the bank of the Potowmack, and of the Eaſt-branch, will draw inhabitants for the purpoſes of commerce, and that one or more towns will be eſtabliſhed on thoſe rivers; and this proſpect may be a compenſation for the purchaſers of lots in thoſe quarters, but it is nothing to Federal-City.

In collecting the information I have given my reader on this ſubject, and the little that I have to ſay further reſpecting it, and in impartially obſerving the paſſions and prejudices of the majority of thoſe from whom I made my enquiries, I was led more than once to the compariſon between the man

who employs his property and time in clearing and ſettling a large tract of land, and the perſon who is engaged with others in the eſtabliſhment of a new city. The former can ſucceed only by collecting round him a number of families to whom it is his intereſt to ſell his lands at a low price, and to whoſe proſperity of courſe he contributes. The pooreſt man is for his purpoſes a good occupier of his grounds. In conferring benefits on others, he increaſes his own welfare and happineſs; he multiplies three-fold, nay ten-fold, the value of the lands that he holds ſtill in his own poſſeſſion, by the neighbourhood of the inhabitants he has drawn around him. The happineſs of others is the proper element of his ſucceſs. If he is of a humane diſpoſition, he finds a multiplicity of occaſions to do good without injury to himſelf. It is indeed his intereſt to be benevolent. Every inſtance of his expenditure is alſo turned to the public advantage; it is a ſervice he renders, a pleaſure he affords, to his colony; and no expence judiciouſly applied is prejudicial to his fortune; on the contrary, it inceſſantly augments his wealth: as his co-

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lony increaſes, more wealthy ſettlers preſent themſelves, and his lands ſell at a price he could not have procured without the previous exerciſe of his benevolence. When his colony has made a ſtill greater progreſs, the produce of lands formerly waſte, is a new and real ſource of wealth to the ſtate to which it is ſubject, and a new maſs of productions for merchants and conſumers. His condition is at once noble and delightful. He lives in the midſt of huſbandmen, conſequently among men of the pureſt manners and diſpoſitions, the furtheſt removed from vice of any among the human ſpecies. He is beloved and eſteemed. And all theſe enjoyments he commands in a ſhort period of time, and owes them all to himſelf. If before the commencement of his enterprize he was virtuous, he is become better by the very means he employed to enlarge his fortune. His heart is improved ſimply by the contemplation of the good he has effected. In a word, he is more happy than ever. There are many examples of this kind in America, and among the moſt eminent of them is Captain Williamſon of Ge-

neſee, who by an undertaking of this nature has augmented his fortune as greatly as he has increaſed the eſteem in which he was held.

He, on the contrary, who is engaged in the eſtabliſhment of a new city, can rarely confine to himſelf the conduct of the enterprize. If he is not counteracted in the whole of his views, he is ſure to be ſo in the greater part of them. The poorer inhabitants that he receives on his eſtate are of no advantage to him. They are even burthenſome, as they occupy the ſpace that he wiſhes to fill with others, whoſe wealth may advance his fortune. Benevolence is baniſhed from his ſyſtem, by the neceſſary calculations of his intereſt. If thoſe calculations induce him to expend ſums for buildings, it is to erect taverns, ſhops, to open billiard-tables, and to create lotteries; in a word, to furniſh the means of diſſipation and pleaſure—that is to ſay, the means of prodigality and vice. It is ſuch objects as theſe that draw crowds of inhabitants to cities, and without them cities will never be extenſive. When this adventurer ſees his city increaſing in population, it

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is only to ſee a conflict of intereſts, to contemplate jealouſies daily ariſing, and enmities making good their footing. And when, at length, after years of innumerable vexations and inceſſant anxiety, he has gathered inhabitants to the extent he propoſed, he has only drawn round him rivals and opponents, while he has done nothing for the real welfare of ſociety. He may have increaſed his wealth, but he will not have added one to the number of his benevolent ſentiments; and even ſuch as he might have had before the commencement of his undertaking will be defaced by the ſpectacle he was obliged to witneſs, and the injuſtice to which he was ſubjected. If his mind is not wholly corrupted, it will be the reſidence of remorſe; but more probably his heart will be hardened. It is to be feared, that ſome of my friends will laugh at my mode of viewing theſe things, but they have my ſentiments in their native colours. If, in the compariſon I have drawn, I had contemplated the founders of Federal-City, my picture of a new city would have been more

diſguſting,

diſguſting, but would not have been the leſs juſt.

I have ſomething more to add relative to Federal-City, although what I have ſaid on the ſubject has already run to too great a length. The number of its inhabitants is at preſent very inconſiderable, and they are ſo ſcattered, that if they were leſs occupied with their ſpeculations, rivalry, and hatreds, they could ſtill form no ſociety. They viſit like people in the country, living at a diſtance from each other. The tradeſmen and labourers for the moſt part reſide at George-Town, where the inhabitants of the other quarters are obliged to ſend for almoſt all neceſſaries. The few ſhops that are in the heart of Federal-City are miſerably provided, and exceſſively dear; and the workmen are the very refuſe of that claſs, and nevertheleſs very high in their demands. Proviſions are furniſhed almoſt by chance; and this is ſo abſolutely the caſe with reſpect to butchers' meat, eſpecially beef, that during the ſix days I paſſed there I never once ſaw any. Eggs are brought from time to time from

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the country, but neither conſtantly nor often. In ſhort, I have not been in any of the obſcureſt parts of America, where I found proviſions ſo badly furniſhed.

The ſtone of which the capitol and preſident's houſe are built is extremely white, and the workmanſhip is excellent; but I do not admire the architecture of thoſe buildings. The ſtone is a ſpecies of granite, and is ſtrong, yet not ſufficiently ſo to reſiſt the ſevereſt kind of froſt; it is taken from a quarry near the Potowmack, at thirty miles below the city. At the ſame diſtance above the city are quarries of fine white marble, and of a red marble with veins; and alſo a quarry of ſlate. Lime-ſtone is found near the Potowmack, but at the diſtance of ſixty miles above the city. The interior navigation, from the Potowmack to the Eaſt-branch, for the forming of which the firſt lottery is at preſent drawing, is not yet begun; but the workmen have orders to aſſemble for its commencement in a month. Two ſmall creeks paſs through the city, the water from which may be conveyed to any part. One, which is called *Tyber-creek*, has

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its ſource at ſome miles diſtance from the city; above which it is elevated ſeventy-eight feet, and may therefore be carried to any height that may be wanted in any of the buildings.

GEORGE-TOWN.

This ſmall town, which is ſeparated from the new city by a creek called *Rock-hall-creek*, ſtands upon ſeveral ſmall hills, which render its aſpect pleaſing; but the communications between its ſeveral parts are difficult. Some years ſince the commerce of this place was conſiderable, but at preſent it is much diminiſhed.

In 1791 the total value of its exportation amounted to 314,864 dollars; in 1792, to 348,539 dollars; in 1793, to 364,537 dollars; in 1794, to 128,924 dollars; in 1795, to 196,790 dollars; and in 1796, to 159,868 dollars. Tobacco, corn, and ſeeds, form the chief articles of exportation from George-Town; it re-exports directly a very ſmall quantity of foreign articles, and is even compelled to ſend to other ports that are better markets

markets much of the merchandize brought from Europe in its veſſels. Its imports have alſo decreaſed: in 1792 the value of them amounted to 99,873 dollars; in 1793, to 87,400 dollars; in 1794, to 139,964 dollars; in 1795, to 153,584 dollars; and in 1796, to 29,193 dollars. The ſhipping it employs in its foreign trade, is at preſent about 2,500 tons; and in its coaſting trade nearly a thouſand tons.

The diminution of the culture of tobacco is one of the cauſes of the decay of its commerce: in 1792 it exported 9,444 hogſheads; and in 1796 no more than 2,461. But ſpeculations in the lots of Federal-City is a more powerful cauſe of that decay. They have turned a great part of the capital of the merchants into that channel, and conſequently diverted it from the trade of the place. Shares in the bank of this town, which were held by many of thoſe merchants, have fallen through the ſame cauſes from forty dollars, their original price, to thirty. This bank, eſtabliſhed by the name of *Columbia Bank*, had originally a capital of 400,000 dollars, divided into ten thouſand ſhares. Its capi-

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tal was augmented with 150,000 dollars, by an act of the legiſlature of Maryland in its laſt ſeſſion: it is employed in the ſame ſervices as all the other banks of America. The notes it has in circulation are for the moſt part of the value of a dollar, and they are current at Alexandria, and all the weſtern parts of Maryland as far as Baltimore.

The ſtores of George-Town are uſually furniſhed from Baltimore; it is at that port that the ſhips belonging to George-Town generally diſpoſe of their cargoes in returning from Europe. The merchants of this place expect to ſee their trade revive, from the completion of the two canals of the large and little falls of the Potowmack, the remainder of the navigation of that river being cleared from obſtacles. They then expect to be the medium of exporting the produce of the countries watered by the Potowmack and the rivers that fall into it, which at preſent can be conveyed to George-Town only by land, at as high a price as the conveyance of them to Baltimore, which from its ſituation has the advantage of the towns on the banks of the Potowmack; where the

price

price of the carriage of flour by land is three dollars per barrel: it will be only eight ſhillings and ſix pence by water. This advantage will be communicated alſo to the Eaſt-branch in Federal-City, and Alexandria.

The merchants of George-Town perſuade themſelves that they will reap the greater part of the benefit of theſe navigations. Being placed the firſt on the route of thoſe who will bring their produce from the countries above the city, and being provided with warehouſes to receive goods, it will be a ſaving of money and time, in veſſels coming down the river, to diſpoſe of their cargoes at George-Town. They aſſert, that the port of this place, that is to ſay, the part of the river that may be converted to that purpoſe, will hold a great number of veſſels with ſecurity; and the danger from ſhoals of ice, which they do not deny to exiſt during two months, they obſerve, may be avoided by veſſels uſing the Eaſt-branch for that period.

The inhabitants of the banks of the Eaſt-branch truſt to the depth and ſecurity of their river, to draw all the commerce of the place

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to themſelves; and they do not doubt, that even the merchants of George-Town will ſoon find the advantage, and remove there. They are ſecure from the ice; and the interior canal between the Potowmack and them will, they imagine, directly afford them all the advantages of that great river.

The inhabitants of Alexandria pretend, that participating in like manner of the advantages of the navigation of the Potowmack through the canal, they have, moreover, the advantage of a commerce long eſtabliſhed and that is daily increaſing—an advantage that is not to be counterbalanced by the difference of five miles' more of ſailing, which cannot deter veſſels from proceeding to the market where they can both ſell and buy to greater advantage.

Time will ſhew which of theſe three places argues with the greateſt truth. I think the argument is in favour of Alexandria.

At George-Town there is a very handſome ſmall Catholic college, maintained by private donations and ſubſcriptions.

FALLS

FALLS OF THE POTOWMACK.

An excurſion that I made to the *falls* gave me an opportunity of ſeeing the canals, which are forming for the purpoſe of avoiding them, and are the undertaking of the *Potowmack Company*. The canal of the *ſmaller falls* is entirely finiſhed; it is a mile and a half in length: four locks ten feet high, placed at its upper extremity, convey veſſels down the river. The ſmaller falls are not ſtrictly ſuch; but the water is ſufficiently checked and diſturbed in its courſe to render the navigation impracticable, and the noiſe it makes is conſiderable. Above the ſmaller falls, at a place where the Potowmack is confined to a narrow paſſage between mountains, a bridge has been lately erected, of the ſame kind as the bridge of Merrymack, near Newbury-port, in Maſſachuſetts: the ſame architect was employed in both. The bridge over the Potowmack is one hundred and twenty feet in the ſpan; it is much admired here, becauſe the people

in this place have no knowledge of the arts, but is indeed diſguſting for its heavineſs, having an immenſe quantity of timber and iron waſted on it, that would have been ſpared in Europe, and with it a great part of the expence.

The canal of the *great falls* is alſo finiſhed, excepting the locks, which are to be ten in number. The height of the falls themſelves is ſeventy-eight feet, and the deſcent from the upper end of the canal to the lower end is about ninety feet. To make ſome uſe of the canal in its preſent ſtate, till the locks can be conſtructed, large maſſes of earth are left to check the rapidity of the water; veſſels proceed to the place where theſe are, and the barrels of flour, and hogſheads of tobacco, which are the principal articles brought down the river, are rolled down an inclined plane made of wood (for this temporary uſe), to veſſels that wait for them below.

The great fall of the Potowmack is beautiful, and deſerves to be viſited by all who arrive in this neighbourhood; but if the

the traveller has ſeen that of Niagara, he will not be ready to compare any other with that ſublime cataract.

The fall of the Potowmack is about half a mile acroſs; it preſents a very fine ſight; and the effect of the rocks, with which the country every-where abounds, adds greatly to its beauty. The inhabitants of its vicinity employ fragments of theſe rocks for the foundation of their houſes, ſome of which indeed are entirely built of them. On the other ſide of the Potowmack, from the ſmaller to the great falls, the banks, though not very well cultivated, are pleaſing, and abound with fine ſituations.

The ſtate of Maryland is at preſent making a road along the banks of the river from George-Town to the bridge. This road is made in a very excellent manner, and will be pleaſant when finiſhed; it however appeared to me to be a little too narrow. The workmen employed in it are paid eleven dollars per month with their board; they are white men, and generally Iriſhmen, and new comers. Almoſt every year a

veſſel filled with Iriſh labourers arrives at George-Town.

Bricks are made at George-Town and Federal-City, and are ſold for ſix dollars per thouſand. Lime is at preſent ſold for four dollars per barrel: as lime-ſtone is found in abundance, it is expected that when the navigation ſhall be entirely open, the price of lime will be reduced to one half.

George-Town is the county town of Montgomery in Maryland. The population of this county amounts to eighteen thouſand ſouls; of which there are more than ſix thouſand ſlaves. It is ſeparated from the county of Prince George by *Rock-creek*. Thus all the new part of the city belongs to this latter county, and, by the proviſions of the law relative to this ſubject, will continue to belong to it till the government of the United States is actually eſtabliſhed at Federal-City.

MR. LAW.

All the time that I paſſed at Federal-City I re-

I reſided with Mr. Law. Laſt year he very much increaſed his domeſtic felicity by marrying an amiable woman, who unites accompliſhments, ſweetneſs of manner, and a charming figure, to a ſound underſtanding and all the qualities that contribute to make the married life happy.

I cannot, however, felicitate Mr. Law on the ſpeculation which induced him to purchaſe a number of lots in this new city, and to chooſe it for the place of his reſidence. It appears to me, that he might have made a more prudent and fortunate uſe of the great property he amaſſed by many years, toil in India. He enters every day more deeply into the concerns of this city, without being able ſincerely to predict his ſucceſs. His fortune is ſuperior to the greateſt fortunes in America, and he might have lived on his own revenues with ſplendour, happy himſelf, and making others ſo. His temper, which is ſincere, humane, and generous, qualified him for that mode of life; notwithſtanding which, he has wilfully plunged himſelf into an abyſs of cares, and all the contentions of this diſtracted city, which not

only prevent the enjoyment of his fortune, but even endanger it. He is not himſelf very confident of ſucceſs, and he is far from being avaricious; but his ardent temper is continually deceiving him concerning the iſſue of the unfavourable circumſtances which he cannot overlook; and every day his obſtinacy on this ſubject increaſes, continually leading him to new expences in this vexatious ſpeculation. I fear he will not be ſo fortunate as he deſerves to be.

ALEXANDRIA.

I went by water from Federal-City to Alexandria, which is a diſtance only of ſix miles. The Potowmack, the whole way from one place to the other, is two miles in breadth; and its banks are well cultivated, and covered with a conſiderable number of houſes. The Maryland ſide being more elevated preſents a finer aſpect. A ſucceſſion of ſmall hills and beautiful vallies, interſected with ſtreams, and having clumps of trees, and even pleaſure-grounds, ſcattered up and down, give it a very lively appearance,

ance. The oppoſite ſide belonging to Virginia is not abſolutely flat, but the ground does not riſe except at a diſtance from the river, and not in the ſame degree as on the Maryland ſide. It however does not want proſpects which are charming. It is in going from Alexandria to Federal-City that the traveller has the beſt view of this country. The eye is not loſt, as in the other route, in the immenſe extent of the Potowmack; which, continually enlarging, leaves nothing to be ſeen at length but the horizon. In this paſſage the country cloſes till the proſpect is bounded by the chain of mountains which form the falls at fifteen miles diſtance; and in the intervening ſpace, the eye reſts on the ſloping ground deſtined for the ſite of Federal-City, and where already there is a ſufficient number of houſes to ornament the ſcene. The mountains on the ſide of Maryland and Virginia, which decreaſe in approaching the Cheſapeak, conſequently riſe and enlarge on the view in proceeding the other way. The diviſion of the waters of the Potowmack and the Eaſt-branch, made by the point of land which is

the ſite of Federal-City, is an object that arreſts the attention, and whoſe grandeur deducts nothing from its beauty. It is unqueſtionably among the fineſt views that are to be ſeen on any river. It does not, however, make me forget thoſe of *North-River*, in the ſtate of New-York, which in my opinion are even preferable; without ſpeaking of that moſt delightful ſcene of the paſſage on that river in the highlands.

This is at preſent the ſeaſon when ſhoals of herrings appear on the coaſts of America, and in the rivers communicating with the ſea. I have conſtantly ſeen at every creek a number of people employed in fiſhing for them with long nets, which they drag for a while and then draw the extremities together. There is ſeldom a draught at which they do not take thouſands. The greater part of them are inſtantly cured. There is an immenſe conſumption in every part of America of this ſpecies of food. Freſh herrings ſell here for four dollars a thouſand. Sturgeon is alſo very plentiful in the rivers of this country, but I do not think it is as good as the ſturgeon in Europe. Alexandria

is,

is, beyond all compariſon, the handſomeſt town in Virginia, and indeed is among the fineſt of the United States. It ſtands on a ſmall plain, elevated however a few feet above the river, and ſo as not to be incommoded with the water. This town, which was begun about thirty years ſince, is built on a regular plan. Streets ſufficiently wide interſect each other at right angles; and ſpacious ſquares add to its beauty, convenience and ſalubrity. Almoſt all the houſes and warehouſes are of brick. Although all the buildings have not an appearance of magnificence, all are convenient and neat; and the houſes are of two ſtories. The quays are large and commodious, and extend along the river every day.

This town increaſes very rapidly, owing to the flouriſhing ſtate of its commerce, which, no doubt, will be ſtill improved by the opening of the navigation of the Potowmack.

It is maintained by many of the inhabitants of Federal-City that the quays of Alexandria are not ſo ſafe for ſhipping as thoſe of the Eaſt-branch, being more expoſed

poſed to ſhoals of ice; and that ſmall veſſels, deſcending the Potowmack, and paſſing through the canal, will not venture again into the Potowmack as far as Alexandria. This opinion is not that of the merchants of Alexandria; who, beſide, would very little raiſe the price of flour, which boats would bring down the Potowmack, if they were even obliged to reload them in larger veſſels at the canal. Hitherto they have received the produce of the upper parts of Virginia by land, and the carts which bring them conſtantly arrive in great numbers.

Alexandria carries on a conſtant trade with the Weſt-India iſlands; and alſo ſome with Europe. The price of flour here at preſent is ſix dollars and a half per barrel. The population of this town amounts to nearly five thouſand ſouls, of which there are about eight hundred black ſlaves. It is ſituated at the diſtance of a hundred miles from the mouth of the Potowmack, in the bay of Cheſapeak.

The value of the exportation of Alexandria amounted in 1791 to 381,242 dollars; in 1792, to 535,592 dollars; in 1793, to 812,889

812,889 dollars; in 1795, to 948,460 dollars; and in 1796, to more than 1,100,000 dollars.

There is a bank at Alexandria, and it is the only one in Virginia. It was eſtabliſhed in December 1792 by an act of the legiſlature. Its original capital was 150,000 dollars, divided into 750 ſhares, of 200 dollars each. By a law paſſed in December 1795 it was authorized to augment its capital by the addition of 350,000 dollars, divided into 1750 new ſhares.

This bank, which was eſtabliſhed on the ſame principles, and for the ſame purpoſe, as all the other banks of America, makes a dividend from four and a half to five per cent half-yearly. It iſſues notes to the value of a dollar, which are current throughout all Virginia, at George-Town, and even for the moſt part in Maryland.

The eſtabliſhment of a bank at Richmond was authorized by the legiſlature of Virginia in December 1792. Its capital was to conſiſt of 400,000 dollars, in ſhares of 200 dollars each; but the ſubſcriptions not filling, it does not exiſt.

JOURNEY

JOURNEY FROM FEDERAL-CITY TO BALTIMORE.

The country from Federal-City to Bladenſburg is beautiful; that is to ſay, nature deſigned it to be ſuch, by the form, and multiplicity of the ſmall hills with which it is covered. The ground is poor, and as ill cultivated as in moſt other places. Bladenſburg is a ſmall village decently built, where there is a place for inſpecting of tobacco, little uſed at preſent; and a ſchool of conſiderable reputation in the country. Bladenſburg is ſituated on the upper part of the Eaſt-branch, at the ſpot where it begins to be navigable. Not far from one of the ſtreams which fall into that river is a fine ſpring of mineral water, which is ſeparated from the bed of the ſtream only by a ſlip of land four or five feet in breadth.

From Bladenſburg to Baltimore the country is every-where hilly, and often not unpleaſing to the ſight. It is filled with woods, but of a very ſmall kind; and which is permitted to remain only for want of hands

hands to clear the ground, or rather for want of capitals to enable the proprietors to employ the negroes on it.

It is ſaid that the ground is better at ſome miles' diſtance from the road. At Vanville the price of land is from ſix to twelve dollars per acre. It produces from ſeven to eight buſhels of corn; from twelve to fifteen, of Indian wheat; from ten to twelve, of barley; and twenty of oats, becauſe this laſt kind of grain is ſown on the beſt land. I received ſimilar information at Spurries, twenty-five miles farther on.

At eight or ten miles from Vanville I paſſed the two branches of the Potukent, which are there very narrow, and over which are thrown wooden bridges, the worſt and moſt dangerous I ever ſaw. The weſtern branch ſeparates the county of Prince George from that of Ann Arundel. Not far from theſe two ſtreams are the iron-works of Snowden, and a ſlitting-mill. The country abounds with ores, which is found on the ſurface, as well as in the bowels of the earth, and in all the ſtreams. The *Patapſko*, which lies between Spurries and Baltimore,

timore, at eight miles from the laſt place, is not more than thirty toiſes in breadth. I paſſed it in an excellent ferry-boat, which is dragged over by the help of a rope. At this ferry the Patapſko ceaſes to be navigable; and here, conſequently, according to the cuſtom of the country, there is a place for the inſpection of tobacco. It has a ſmall village built around it, which is called *Elk-ridge-landing*.

It is on the *Patapſko* that Baltimore is built, or rather on an arm of that river. The mouth of the harbour is not more than two hundred toiſes acroſs, and is conſequently eaſy to defend. A fort is erected on a ſmall eminence at the point of land which ſeparates the harbour from the river. It is, like all works of the kind in America, poorly conſtructed; but a little labour and expence would render it what it ought to be.

BALTIMORE.

I found Baltimore larger than when I was here laſt year. Several quays which were only begun, and ſome even no more than projected,

projected, were entirely finiſhed; and large and handſome warehouſes of brick entirely built from the ground. In every quarter of the town buildings increaſe; and there is an air of buſineſs and plenty throughout the whole.

There are no veſſels built at preſent at Baltimore, for the ſame reaſons that put a ſtop to the building of veſſels in other parts of Maryland and Virginia. Baltimore has, notwithſtanding, loſt in the courſe of the year a great many ſhips at ſea. This port continues to trade to the Weſt-Indies; and ſome of the merchants engaged in that commerce have not been unſucceſsful.

The value of the exports of Baltimore in 1791 amounted to 1,576,588 dollars; in 1792, to 1,843,225 dollars; in 1793, to 3,084,545 dollars; in 1794, to 5,312,209 dollars; in 1795, to 5,542,051 dollars; and in 1796, to more than 8,500,000 dollars. But that this aſtoniſhing increaſe in the exportation of this port may not be exaggerated, the augmentation in the price of the produce of the Weſt-India iſlands muſt here, as in every other part of America, be deducted

ducted from the value of the exports. There are no merchants here as rich as thoſe of Philadelphia. The fortunes of this town are in their infancy. Luxury is not only leſs in individuals, but is leſs general.

I am told that the number of corn-mills built within ten miles round Baltimore exceed ſixty. Some that I ſaw near the town were as handſome, upon as large a ſcale, and as complete as any at Brandywine.

There are two banks at Baltimore. One is a branch of the bank of the United States; the other is a bank belonging to the town, which was incorporated in 1791, by a law of this ſtate, with a capital of three hundred thouſand dollars. The ſtores of Baltimore partake with Philadelphia in ſupplying thoſe of Kentucky, the territory of the weſt, and Teneſſee. Philadelphia, however, would not enter into this competition with Baltimore, were not its commerce more extenſive, and its ſtock and capital larger, ſo that purchaſers find a greater variety of aſſortments of every kind there. It is ſaid alſo that the ſpirituous liquors ſold at Baltimore are more adulterated than even thoſe ſold by the

the merchants of Philadelphia. The merchants of Baltimore allow the traders of Kentucky from twenty to five-and-twenty per cent profit on their articles, and give a twelvemonth's credit.

Baltimore, however, may expect to lose some of the branches of its commerce from the following causes:

1st, The entire opening of the navigation of the Potowmack, by bringing down the corn and other produce of the parts of Virginia and Maryland watered by that river and others which flow into it, will give that branch of commerce to George-Town, Alexandria, and Federal-City; Baltimore being obliged to procure these articles by land carriage.

2d, A scheme is undertaken for joining the Potowmack above Cumberland with one of the branches of the Monongahela, which falls into the Ohio; which, if it succeed, will take from Baltimore the market of Kentucky, and even of Pittsburg, as articles will then be carried to those places by water through Alexandria and George-Town.

3d, If the scheme of uniting the Chesa-

peak-bay with the Delaware-bay by a canal paſſing through the eaſt of Maryland is completed, which appears to be probable, the corn of that part of the eaſt, and even of the weſt, which at preſent is carried to Baltimore, would be carried to Philadelphia and Brandywine, where they would find an ample market; and the more ſo, as flour generally ſells at Philadelphia for a dollar, or a dollar and a half, per barrel more than at Baltimore.

The merchants of Baltimore, who are aware of theſe conſequences, expect that at the ſame time the Suſquehannah will be made entirely navigable; and in that imagine they will have a complete compenſation. But it appears to me that they deceive themſelves in theſe expectations; for the articles which are brought down the Suſquehannah will probably take the route of the canal that will join the two bays when it is finiſhed; and as Philadelphia is extremely intereſted in the completion of that canal, it is certain that the legiſlature of Pennſylvania will never conſent to the works neceſſary to render the Suſquehannah navigable—

navigable--that river flowing chiefly through its territory—until the legiſlature of Maryland ſhall conſent to the opening of the canal between the two bays, which is at preſent obſtinately oppoſed by the merchants of Baltimore.

From theſe obſervations it follows, that Baltimore is ill ſituated for commerce; owing its preſent ſucceſs merely to the want of other ports in the Cheſapeak, and to the obſtructions to navigation on all the interior rivers.

The commerce of Baltimore was raiſed from the funds of the merchants of Philadelphia, who in that place ſaw a convenient entrepôt between themſelves and the back countries. It has ſince increaſed by the capitals gained by the merchants, who at firſt were only factors to thoſe of Philadelphia; but the decreaſe of its commerce is not therefore the leſs probable.

I went to ſee one of the frigates of the United States here, and which is one of thoſe that have been ordered to be finiſhed: ſhe will be launched in Auguſt. I thought her too much encumbered with wood-work

within, but in other reſpects ſhe is a fine veſſel, being built of thoſe beautiful kinds of wood, the *ever-green oak* and cedar: ſhe is pierced for thirty-ſix guns.

An inhabitant of Baltimore has erected an obſervatory on a ſmall hill on the other ſide of the port, from which, with a teleſcope, one ſees to the diſtance of thirty-five miles into the bay. A flag is hoiſted on the obſervatory, to announce the arrival of veſſels. This little eſtabliſhment is not only very grateful to the merchants, but in ſome degree uſeful, and is already encouraged with many ſubſcriptions.

A public library is erecting by ſubſcription at Baltimore: two thouſand volumes, ſome good and ſome bad, are already collected for it. This is the only public library throughout Maryland.

Baltimore has afforded great aſſiſtance to the unfortunate Frenchmen who fled from the diſaſtrous ſtate of St. Domingo; individuals having conſiderably added by ſubſcriptions to the donations made by the legiſlature of the ſtate.

BUSH-

BUSH-TOWN.

The ground between Baltimore and Buſh-Town is ſtill worſe, if poſſible, than that between Federal-City and Baltimore: the Heſſian fly, which to the ſouth-weſt of the town attacks the corn very little, lays it waſte in this quarter; very little corn is therefore ſown. Small grain, Indian wheat, and paſture, includes the huſbandry of the country. It is beſide very much filled with woods of a very uſeleſs kind, and very mean appearance.

At fifteen miles from Baltimore, at a place where I breakfaſted with a farmer named *Webſter*, land ſells from eight to fifteen dollars per acre; there is very little that exceeds this price, and this is paſture-ground, improved by ſome years manuring. Webſter has a ſmall flock of ſheep, whoſe wool he ſells partly to neighbouring farmers, and partly to the hatters of Baltimore, at four ſhillings per pound. His houſe ſtands at a little diſtance from *Bird-River*, which ap-

pears to be rather an arm of the bay than a river.

A mill not far from Webſter's houſe grinds the little corn that is grown in this part; and the flour is ſent to Baltimore.

Bird-River is navigable for ſmall veſſels to a place about a mile from Webſter's houſe; about a quarter of a mile above which it is not more than four toiſes in breadth, and is eaſily forded. This is a uſual caſe with the ſeveral creeks and rivers of the country, and they are very numerous. I paſſed the *Long-Cane*, or *Great Gunpowder*, where there was water enough at that time to reach the girth of my horſe; the *Little Gunpowder*, which I paſſed on a very miſerable wooden bridge: this river ſupplies ſome iron-works and ſlitting-mills, known by the name of *Onion's-works*; the *Winter's-Run*, a ſmall creek; and the *Buſh-River*, which, like *Bird-River*, is only four toiſes acroſs, and is not more than a foot in depth, at a place not more than a quarter of a mile from the ſpot where it is twelve feet in depth, and a mile in breadth. There is a handſome

handſome and large corn-mill on *Buſh-River*, to which corn is brought from a great diſtance, the proprietors being rich and active. The flour is ſent to Baltimore.

The *Little Gunpowder* creek ſeparates the county of Baltimore from that of *Hartford*. The county of Baltimore, excluſive of the city, contains twenty-five thouſand inhabitants, of which ten thouſand are ſlaves. The population of the town of Baltimore amounts to fifteen thouſand white men, and from ſix to ſeven thouſand ſlaves.

This road has a mournful appearance, and is very thinly inhabited. The road is tolerably good for a horſe; but almoſt impaſſable for carriages. Notwithſtanding which, there are four ſtages that paſs it every day; and it lies between two of the moſt conſiderable places for trade in America.

At the diſtance of a mile before I arrived at Buſh-Town I paſſed through *Abington*, a ſmall and poor village, which is remarkable for nothing but for the remains of a very handſome college, built by the Methodiſts, and which was burned down about

two years ſince. It is aſſerted here, that this fire was occaſioned wilfully; and when it is known that the Methodiſts, as well as the Quakers, exhort to the emancipation of the ſlaves, we cannot be ſurprized that they ſhould be hated and perſecuted in a country where the inhabitants are attached to the ſyſtem of keeping ſlaves, by their education, habits, and a narrow view of their intereſts. It muſt be allowed that there is a great deal of enthuſiaſm among the Methodiſts; and I am inclined to believe that they are too general in their plans for the abolition of ſlavery, even to guard ſufficiently the intereſts of the ſlaves themſelves. Nor are they very diſcreet in their ſermons. But from all I have been able to gather concerning this ſect, I am perſuaded it includes many worthy and virtuous men, and even many men of talents. None of the Methodiſts poſſeſs ſlaves. Many before they were of that perſuaſion were proprietors of ſlaves, and freed them. There have been ſome who have freed three hundred negroes at a time; binding the children to maſters, with the condition of their teaching

ing them to read, write and cypher, and of their ſerving only to the age of eighteen or twenty, when they were to be entirely at their own diſpoſal. Buſh-Town is in the county of Hartford, which contains fifteen thouſand inhabitants, five thouſand of which are ſlaves. *Belair* has been the county town of Hartford for ſome years paſt, but hitherto contains only the town-houſe, a priſon, and a ſmall number of wooden houſes. It was made the county town for its central ſituation. Buſh-Town was formerly the county town, and was at that time called Hartford.

JOURNEY FROM BUSH-TOWN TO HAVRE-DE-GRACE.

The country till I reached the Suſquehannah was of the ſame kind as that through which I had already paſſed. In travelling twelve miles, I did not ſee more than four houſes that were not miſerable huts; and yet the farms are tolerably large, the ground being partly ſown with Indian corn, and the remainder immenſe fields very rarely manured. The land is in general ſandy and poor.

poor. From ten to twelve buſhels of Indian wheat per acre is the uſual produce, and from five to ſix of corn (where that is ſown), when the Heſſian fly does not infeſt the grain, it being as common in this part of Maryland as on the other ſide of the Cheſapeak. Some meadows, eſpecially thoſe that lie neareſt the bay, yield forty hundred weight of hay per acre. There is ſome ground to be met with ſuperior in quality, the produce of which is a third more than what I have named.

Throughout the whole of this journey, I found that lands generally ſell as at Buſh-Town, from ten to twenty dollars per acre. Near the Suſquehannah ſome rich meadows ſell for thirty-five dollars per acre.

The rain which fell inceſſantly for two days, and detained me at Buſh-Town, ſwelled the creeks ſo much, that at many places we paſſed, where the water is generally no more than four or five inches in depth, it was then more than four feet. The ſtage that goes between Philadelphia and Baltimore was compelled to remain four-and-twenty hours at Buſh-Town; the *Winter's-Run*,

Run, which is uſually no more than two feet in depth, having riſen to fifteen feet, and there being no bridge over that river.

The Swan-river is the only one of any conſequence between Buſh-Town and the Suſquehannah. It is of the ſame kind as the reſt; that is to ſay, very narrow at a quarter of a mile from the ſpot where it is two or three miles acroſs.

The land is tolerably good in the bottoms, and is ſold for thirty-four dollars per acre; that on the heights ſells only for ten and twelve dollars per acre. The wages of labourers are from eight to nine dollars per month, for the ſummer ſeaſon, or ninety-two dollars by the year; and three ſhillings and nine pence per day when there is nothing particular to do, and a dollar and a half in harveſt-time. They make a demand of half a dollar extraordinary for mowing.

HAVRE-DE-GRACE.

A few houſes that ſtand together on the weſt banks of the Suſquehannah bear the name

name of *Havre-de-Grace*. A company consisting of eight persons projected the establishment of a town there. A plan was drawn out, the ground was measured and bounded, and the streets laid out. The site included a thousand acres, divided into three thousand six hundred lots of houses. The projectors already enjoyed their town completed in imagination; or affected to do so. Their reasons for supposing it would be peopled with rapidity were the following:

1st, That the produce of the Susquehannah, navigable in both its branches for three hundred miles above Havre-de-Grace, could have no other outlet, at least for timber, which abounds along its banks as well as along the banks of the rivers that fall into it.

2d, That Chesapeak-bay, which commences at this spot, has at that place fourteen feet water without a rock or sand-bank beneath it; and that, therefore, vessels of a considerable burthen might there easily take in such articles as could not venture into the bay in the small craft that brings them down the river.

3d, That

3d, That the road of Havre-de-Grace, being in that part of the town which lies upon the bay, would be ſecured from the ſhoals of ice, and in other reſpects perfectly ſafe.

Thus the proprietors of the ground of this new city imagined that the commerce of Baltimore, and even that of Philadelphia, would in part be transferred to Havre-de-Grace.

The navigation of the Suſquehannah, however, although practicable, with great care, for ſmall veſſels and timber rafts, is not without danger, and does not admit of any larger veſſels. It flows through the ſtate of Pennſylvania, except for the laſt twenty miles of its courſe: and as the legiſlature of Pennſylvania entertains the project of joining the Suſquehannah and the Schuylkill, by a canal which is already begun at Sweetara; and as this plan has no other intention than to give Philadelphia the means of receiving directly the corn that the Suſquehannah brings as far as Middleton; it is to be expected that even if this canal is not completed (which the inhabi-

tants

tants of Havre-de-Grace believe to be impracticable), the ſtate of Pennſylvania will never employ funds to facilitate a navigation the profit of which will wholly belong to a neighbouring ſtate. The depth of the canal that comes up to Havre-de-Grace is not, even below *Point-Concord*, conſiderable enough to admit veſſels of great burthen; and conſequently not directly to carry on foreign commerce with advantage. I take this project therefore to be another dream, at leaſt as to the extent given to it. This town, which may very well become an entrepôt, where the merchants of Philadelphia and Baltimore may eſtabliſh agents, does not appear to be calculated for any higher deſtiny. Pamphlets are however circulated to praiſe the advantages of its ſituation, and conſequently to attract adventurers. The company have ſent an agent to Europe to ſell their lots, the price of which is from a hundred to a hundred and fifty dollars, according to their ſituations. Notwithſtanding the activity of theſe meaſures, and even the probability that this place will become an entrepôt, I am perſuaded the tenth part

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of the ſite of Havre-de-Grace will never be covered with houſes; or, to ſay the leaſt, not for a great number of years. Many people aſſert that the ſituation is far from being healthy.

There are obſtructions in the navigation of the Suſquehannah eight miles above Havre-de-Grace, and within the territory of the ſtate of Maryland. A canal which will remedy the evil is almoſt finiſhed. The funds for defraying the expences of this canal were raiſed by ſubſcriptions of individuals and the ſtate of Maryland. The tide flows ſix miles above Havre-de-Grace; and herrings abound there as in the Potowmack. There are ten different fiſheries eſtabliſhed within that ſpace on the weſt banks of the Suſquehannah, where the ſhoals are the greateſt; and five on the other ſide. The herrings are taken in large nets, from a hundred and eighty to two hundred fathoms in length, and from four to ſix fathoms in breadth. The nets are ſpread acroſs the river by boats, a rope at one end being faſtened to the ſhore, and the other end conveyed by the boat to a certain diſtance;

tance; and they are drawn by the help of a capſtan. There is no other fiſh here but herrings and ſhad-fiſh; and the latter are found in very ſmall quantities. The moment the herrings are taken, they are thrown into large caſks with ſalt. The fiſhermen do not clean them, nor take off the heads, as on the Potowmack. Having been left five days in theſe caſks, they are taken out, and packed in barrels, which at each end have a layer of ſalt; and then they are fit for ſale. The fiſheries, the curing the herring, and the packing them in barrels, employ from fourteen to fifteen men in each fiſhery, who have each fifteen dollars per month, with their proviſions. Every barrel contains about five hundred herrings, and requires a buſhel and a half of ſalt, which coſts five ſhillings per buſhel; the barrel itſelf coſts five ſhillings and ſix pence: the nets laſt three or four ſeaſons, and coſt from two hundred to three hundred dollars, according to their dimenſions. That part of the river where the fiſhery is eſtabliſhed is taken of the proprietor of the adjoining land; and from thirty to fifty dollars annually

annually are paid for a fiſhery, according to its ſituation; for the difference of a point in the land, or of the nearneſs of the current to the ſhore, makes a great difference in the ſize and quantity of the ſhoals. The ſeaſon for fiſhing continues five or ſix weeks, during which the ten fiſheries in the neighbourhood of Havre-de-Grace take about 12,000 barrels of herrings: they are ſent as far as Baltimore: ſome are ſold freſh to the inhabitants, who cure them themſelves. A barrel of cured herrings is ſold for five dollars and a half: freſh herrings are four dollars per thouſand, which is the ſame price as on the Potowmack. Small veſſels of about forty tons carry the cured herrings to Baltimore; they are generally built at Havre-de-Grace, and coſt twenty dollars per ton for the hull, which makes them amount to thirty-five or thirty-ſix dollars per ton when they are ready for ſea.

While I was viſiting one of theſe fiſheries I ſaw a net drawn, with an immenſe quantity of fiſh; enough, it was computed, to fill two hundred barrels: the fiſhermen calculate

the medium quantity of a draught to be about forty barrels.

JOURNEY FROM HAVRE-DE-GRACE TO ELK-TOWN.

I have ſpoken in my journal of laſt year of the beauty of the banks of the Suſquehannah at its mouth; theſe banks are lofty, diverſified in their appearance, well cultivated, and covered with dwellings. At the entrance of the bay the proſpect extends as far as the ſight can reach; ten miles higher up, on the ſide of Philadelphia, noble mountains of various beautiful forms bound the proſpect.

In this part of the Suſquehannah are immenſe flocks of wild ducks, known by the name of *canvas-back ducks*, and are eſteemed delicious eating. This fowl, which in ſummer haunts the more northern lakes of the Continent, viſits the Suſquehannah towards the month of December, and remaining there till the froſts ſets in, at that ſeaſon proceeds to the Potowmack; when the ice diſappears, it

it returns again to the Suſquehannah for a week or two, and then departs for its ſummer haunts.

Having croſſed the Suſquehannah, I found myſelf in the county of *Cecil*, through the ſouthern part of which I had travelled three weeks before from Warwick to a river called the *Saſafras*. It was my intention to pay a viſit for a day to *Philip Thomas*, one of the richeſt proprietors in this part of the country, and a partner in the Havre-de-Grace company. I was even on my road to his houſe, when I learned that he had been two days at Philadelphia; I therefore abandoned my deſign, and took the road to Philadelphia, through a country a little more pleaſant, better cultivated, and better inhabited, than that between Baltimore and the Suſquehannah; but by no means either rich or well peopled.

A ſmall creek called *Principio*, which is no more than four toiſes in breadth in one ſpot, after a fall among rocks of about thirty feet, ſpreads to a mile in breadth, and continues to widen till it falls into the bay. Juſt below this fall is a cannon foundery be-

longing to Colonel *Youth*, one of the partners of the Havre-de-Grace company; this foundery is at preſent entirely employed in caſting cannon for the frigates building by the United States: a hundred and twenty dollars for every twenty hundred weight of metal is the price the colonel receives for all cannon that are proof, which amounts to about three hundred dollars for a cannon of twenty-four pounds caliber. The colonel procures his ore from the neighbourhood of the place where Webſter reſides, at a little diſtance from Bird-creek; it is brought to Principio in boats. This ore does not yield more when melted than two fifths of its weight of iron; and the metal, on the mere inſpection of it, did not appear to me to be good. The great number of cannon that burſt in the proof, with the fragments of which the ground is covered, confirmed me in this opinion: the cannons however appear to be caſt with conſiderable ſkill, and great care.

This is the ſecond cannon foundery in the United States: there is, as I have ſaid before, another ſituated in the ſtate of Rhode-

Iſland

Iſland: and theſe are the only ones. They have been eſtabliſhed by French founders, ſent by the French government for that purpoſe about ten or twelve years ago: thus, for every thing that contributes to their ſafety, the United States are indebted to France.

Colonel Youth's foundery conſiſts of a furnace with bellows, and a reverberating one. When he is not employed in caſting cannon he manufactures pots, chimney backs, and other large works. The number of workmen at preſent amounts to fifty, who are paid from ten to twenty dollars a month.

The view of the fall is extremely picturesque and beautiful. The ſmall veſſels of from forty to fifty tons, which bring the ore, approach it within fifty fathom.

From ſeveral elevated points of the road from Elk-Town the bay of Cheſapeak may be ſeen: you approach it even at *Charles-Town*, and at *Nordwaiſt*, a little village built on *Nordwaiſt-River*; which, like the others, is only a continuation of the bay. The ſmall creeks, however, which we paſs at the ford are innumerable. It is probable, that in a dry ſeaſon they are not to be perceived,

but after the heavy rains, which have fallen for ſome days paſt, they are almoſt all wide and deep.

ELK-TOWN.

This ſmall town is the capital of Cecil-County, and contains about 100 houſes, almoſt all built in one ſtreet, which leads to Philadelphia.

Elk-River is navigable only a mile below the town, and at which point there is alſo an aſſemblage of houſes and warehouſes, which may be conſidered as a part of the town.

Elk-Town has a pretty good trade in corn with Philadelphia, which is brought particularly from the eaſtern part of Maryland. From Elk-Town it is ſent by land to Chriſtiana-bridge, a village at the diſtance of twelve miles; and from thence conveyed on the Chriſtiana to Brandywine and Philadelphia. It is aſſerted that 300,000 buſhels are ſent annually from Elk-Town by this route. The price of carriage to Brandywine is nine pence per buſhel, and to Philadelphia eleven pence halfpenny.

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One of the plans for joining the Cheſapeak and the Delaware, by inland navigation, is to join the Elk-River to that of the Chriſtiana. Another has for its object to join the *Bohemia* to the *Apoquimini*. A third is to make a communication between the river Cheſter and Duck-River; and the fourth would join the Choptank to Jones-River. Each of theſe plans is favoured by the inhabitants of the part of the county which it would paſs through.

It is aſſerted that the ſtate of Delaware oppoſes almoſt all, becauſe a great number of horſes belonging to the inhabitants are conſtantly and uſefully employed in carrying corn from Elk-Town to Chriſtiana-bridge. I can hardly believe that ſo trifling an intereſt can miſlead the inhabitants, and eſpecially the legiſlature of Delaware, in oppoſition to the important intereſts of the ſtate.

The commercial intereſts of Baltimore, as I have before ſaid, oppoſe this junction. To judge which of theſe four plans ought to be preferred, we ſhould know the plan of the engineers, and the nature of the ground and the obſtacles. If the difficulties were

equal, that which would join the Bohemia to the Apoquimini appears the beſt, as being higher in the river Delaware. The ſmall ſpace of ground to be cut through to join the two rivers ſhould likewiſe be taken into conſideration, as rendering its execution quicker, and leſs expenſive. As the part to be cut through is entirely in the ſtate of Delaware, the acquieſcence of the legiſlature of Maryland is unneceſſary.

A general obſtacle exiſts againſt all theſe projects;—which is, the difference in the height of the waters of the Delaware and of the Cheſapeak.

This difference is occaſioned by the rapid influx from the Gulph of Mexico, which, on account of the direction of the currents, and the narrowneſs of the baſon, ruſhes with more force on the waters of the Delaware than on thoſe of the Cheſapeak, mixes with them ſooner, and raiſes them higher; whilſt on the other hand after having paſſed the capes of the Cheſapeak, it immediately turns into a vaſt baſon, and thus loſing its force renders the reſt of the bay from two to three feet lower than the Delaware.

But

But this variation in the height of the water of these two bays might be remedied by sluices at the points where the rivers would unite.

About a mile from Elk-Town is the boundary of the states of Maryland and Delaware. There are in the neighbourhood some meadows, which are kept in good order; situated in a good bottom, and sowed with clover and timothy-grass, which yields in two crops from eighty to one hundred weight of hay an acre. Ten hundred weight of hay sells here for six dollars and a half. These excellent meadows do not, however, sell for more than thirty dollars per acre: the price of other land is from ten to fifteen dollars.

Labourers are paid here six shillings a day, or eleven dollars a month; the greater part of them are negroes let out by their masters. In harvest time they pay them a dollar a day.

Elk-River as well as the other rivers abounds in herrings and ducks: this abundance is a great resource for poor families, who may procure by their own pains, or at a very

a very low price, their food for almoſt all the year in theſe two ſorts of proviſion. Some hogs, whoſe feed coſts them nothing, as they let them run in the woods, provide the reſt: but the conſequence of this eaſy method of procuring food in abundance is, that, unleſs they have the intention of emigrating, they become indolent. Three weeks' work in harveſt time, and the ſale of the ducks which they kill, procure them as much money as they want: one or two acres of maize which they cultivate furniſh them with bread; and a great number of them are therefore idle all the year.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS ON MARYLAND.

All that I have ſeen of the ſtate of Maryland—and I have travelled through the greateſt part of it during this year and the laſt—induces me to believe that its ſituation in many parts is inferior to almoſt all the other ſtates of America.

Slavery, which gives a very great advantage to the eaſtern ſtates over the ſouthern,

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in reſpect to the cultivation of the ground, and ſuch manufactures as the ſtate of population in this new world permits, produces ſtill more evils in Maryland than in Virginia and the Carolinas, as Maryland is leſs extenſive than the three other ſtates, and does not produce, like them, fine and rich crops of rice, cotton, and tobacco: added to which, the number of ſlaves in thoſe ſtates is greater in proportion than elſewhere. All the land, as I have before obſerved, is exhauſted by the crops of tobacco which have been continually drawn from it ſince this ſtate has been inhabited. The impoſſibility of obtaining more crops, at leaſt from the greater part of the land, has reduced the cultivation of this plant to nothing; and the cultivation of maize, which is carried on in thoſe parts which cannot produce any more tobacco, completely deſtroys them. The great number of ſlaves, however, who are to be maintained renders the cultivation in ſome degree indiſpenſable; and the Heſſian fly with which the wheat has latterly been attacked, likewiſe encourages the cultivation of maize: the leaves of this plant are very good food for

for horſes; thus the advantages of its cultivation induces the planter to forget the damages which it occaſions to the ſoil already irreparably deſtroyed, as well as the portion of labour which it requires from the time of ſowing to that of harveſt.

He ſees, however, his crops of maize diminiſh annually; yet his negroes muſt be provided with food; and if he feels the neceſſity of improving his land by a proper cultivation, and particularly by manuring it abundantly, he is prevented ſo doing by the preponderating neceſſity of providing food, and by the want of the money neceſſary for theſe improvements. On the other hand, the inhabitant whoſe exiſtence depends on his labour, bluſhes to *work as a negro.* If he has a ſmall property, which he might by induſtry improve, he haſtens, as I have before obſerved, to diſpoſe of it, that he may purchaſe a ſettlement in ſome part of the country where he may obtain it at a low price, and where, by labouring himſelf, he will not be liable to be conſidered as an inferior being. This property is then bought by ſome rich planter, who ſuffers it to lie uncultivated,

cultivated, having already more land than he can cultivate. The white who has no property labours until he has ſaved ſufficient to enable him to ſettle elſewhere, which he may ſoon accompliſh, as he can eaſily earn from a hundred to a hundred and twenty dollars a year, beſides his food. Some quit the country even before they have ſaved any property, and if they are good workmen, find an opportunity of eſtabliſhing themſelves with credit in a country where their feelings are not conſtantly wounded by lowering themſelves to an equality with ſlaves. This is preciſely the ſtate of things in the eaſtern part of Maryland, and even in ſome of the weſtern parts.

There are a few places in the weſt of this ſtate where it is otherwiſe; ſuch as in the counties of Frederick, Waſhington, and the *Alleganys*, where the proportion of ſlaves is very ſmall. The land there is fertile, and has not yet been drained; as they are new ſettlements, and as the temperature of the air will not permit the cultivation of tobacco. Theſe three counties, where alſo the climate is healthful, are peopled with emigrants

grants from other ſtates as well as from Maryland. Some planters on both ſides of this ſtate have lately begun to improve their meadows, and alſo to cultivate large quantities of land. They manure the ground: and this firſt ſtep towards improvement is doubtleſs uſeful, and well deſigned, as preparatory to a more complete ſyſtem; but their beaſts are always, winter and ſummer, in the woods, and are leaner than any I have ſeen; but the means of fattening them does not appear to occupy their attention, nor do they take any pains to aboliſh, even at a future period, that ſcourge—ſlavery—which, humanity and morality out of the queſtion, is an inſurmountable obſtacle to the improvement of their lands, and conſequently their fortunes; and which is a ſource of imminent danger to themſelves and to the general tranquillity of their country.

I have ſaid that in Maryland and Virginia, and even in Carolina, many planters are convinced of thoſe dangers, and are deſirous of having their fields cultivated and their domeſtic ſervices performed by free-

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men rather than by ſlaves; but this conviction is not ſufficiently ſtrong to lead them to the reſolution, which ſhould operate as a preliminary to the deſtruction of the evil.

There are publications even in Virginia in favour of the emancipation of the negroes; they have, however, produced no more effect there than in thoſe ſtates of the ſouth, where the great number of ſlaves and ſmall proportion of whites render every meaſure againſt ſlavery extremely difficult.

They talk here of tranſporting all the negroes out of the country at once, either to Africa or to the ſouthern parts of America, in order to found a colony. This meaſure would be ſo full of difficulties in its execution, and would be attended with ſo many unpleaſant conſequences, that it cannot poſſibly be carried into effect. The plan is ſupported by the fear which manifeſts itſelf in thoſe who eſpouſe it, that a mixture in the blood would take place if the negroes were emancipated, or ſuffered to remain in the country: "in future generations," ſay they, "there would not be a countenance to be ſeen without more or leſs of the black colour."

lour." This inconvenience would doubtleſs be great if it were certain; but it by no means appears ſo to me: wiſe laws might prevent this mixture, or render it very rare, without any further abridgment of the rights of individuals than is already made by many other laws, which, for the good of ſociety, reſtrain the exerciſe of individual rights; nor would ſuch a law be any evil to the negro race. Choice alone would for a length of time give a decided ſuperiority to the white colour, even in the eyes of the blacks; and the preference would of itſelf prevent mixed marriages; the law, therefore, which ſhould enforce this preference, would be eaſily carried into execution.

But it appears to me to be an error, to propoſe the emancipating all the ſlaves at one time. The reſpect due to the property of the maſters of theſe ſlaves, hitherto acknowledged by the law, and to the maintenance of order in ſociety, demands that this great work ſhould be progreſſive. The objects of a law to free the ſlaves, are the well being of ſociety, and the happineſs of the ſlaves themſelves; and if theſe are not attained, the abolition

lition of the ſlave trade is the dream of a miſtaken philanthropy. The great danger a ſlave has to encounter after his emancipation is, that of not being able to provide for his wants; and it is the natural conſequence of the averſion to labour contracted by every ſlave, and the habit he has of ſeeing himſelf fed and clothed, without directly occupying himſelf with that care. But would not both the danger to the ſlave, and the injury to the maſter, be avoided by a law with the following proviſions: 1ſt, To fix a price, that ſhould be moderate and equitable, on the liberty to be given to a ſlave: 2d, To enjoin the proprietors of ſlaves to permit them to work two days in each week for their own emolument; and to furniſh them with land, to raiſe crops that ſhould be their own property; or where the maſter ſhould have occaſion for their labour on the days ſet aſide for their own uſe, to pay them at the ſame rate as other workmen: 3d, To declare every ſlave, on paying the price at which he is valued by the law, inſtantly free: 4th, to declare all children of ſlaves, born after the date of the law, free; and all children

exiſting at the time of the law, free at the age of twenty-one; with a clauſe, to compel the maſters to provide for the education of the latter?

The emancipation of ſlaves being thus the reſult of their own labour, they will in ſome degree have acquired the habit of labour; and will no longer be ſtrangers, as they now are, to the prudence and foreſight neceſſary to their exiſtence; nor will ſociety have any thing to fear on that ſide from their emancipation. Being treated as other labourers, having the privileges of white men, what particular inducement can they have to injure ſociety? I am not aware that I deceive myſelf; yet I believe that a law of this nature would render the emancipation of ſlaves a benefit to every claſs of ſociety, eſpecially in a country where the population of white men exceeds that of ſlaves; and I do not think the proprietors of ſlaves would have any reaſon to complain of ſuch a law.

The population of the ſtate of Maryland, according to a return made in 1790, amounted to 319,728 inhabitants; of which 103,036 were

were ſlaves. People here, who are the beſt informed, aſſert that the population of white men is not increaſed; but that the population of ſlaves is, on the contrary, greatly increaſed.

It is impoſſible to ſee, without aſtoniſhment, and indeed ſome degree of indignation, the ruinous ſtate of the roads and bridges in Maryland. In the moſt remote parts of America, roads and bridges are not worſe; and indeed in many of thoſe parts of the country are even better. The negligence of the government of Maryland in this reſpect is an unpardonable injury, not only to the convenience, but to the ſecurity of the public. The canals ſeem to be a little more attended to; at leaſt, companies and individuals engaged in carrying them on are more favoured by the legiſlature. Beſide which, the number of navigable rivers with which Maryland is interſected, renders the carriage from one to another extremely ſhort, and affords means of ſale for the produce of this ſtate that are at once eaſy and cheap; and an improvement in the general ſyſtem of

culture would increaſe the produce of this ſtate to an immenſe extent.

Maryland boaſts of having a particular ſpecies of white corn; and a particular kind of tobaçco, known by the name of *kite-foot*; both of which are originally natives of America, and even of that part of this continent which at preſent forms the ſtate of Maryland. The white corn grows in the more ſouthern part of the eaſtern ſide of the ſtate, where, however, it degenerates. The *kite-foot* is cultivated not far from the Potapſko; and is in great requeſt, it is ſaid, in Europe.

The religious ſects of Maryland are as numerous as in the other ſtates of the union. There are more Roman Catholics in Maryland than in any other part of America, the firſt ſettlers of this ſtate being of that perſuaſion; but the Preſbyterians, and ſtill more the Methodiſts, are in greater numbers. A Roman Catholic biſhop reſides at Baltimore; in which city and its neighbourhood, and in Prince George's-Country, Queen's-County, and Charles's-County, it is that the Roman Catholics

Catholics abound moſt. The Catholic religion is rigidly obſerved by its profeſſors here; and makes very few proſelytes. In general, the ſpirit of religion is not more prevalent in Maryland than in any of the other ſtates. The inhabitants are mild, obliging, and hoſpitable. Wherever a traveller goes he is well received; and is always preſſed to make a longer ſtay in every houſe he viſits. I have met with many perſons of the upper claſs of excellent diſpoſitions; and alſo many of the inferior claſs, eſpecially in parts remote from towns.

It is aſſerted that the inhabitants of Baltimore are as ſelfiſh and inhoſpitable as thoſe of Philadelphia; and I think that is probably the caſe, as the ſame cauſes every-where produce the ſame effect. I cannot, however, ſpeak of the truth of this aſſertion from my own experience; and indeed I have reaſon to ſpeak with reſpect of all thoſe whom I had occaſion to viſit.

The political ſentiments that prevail in the upper claſſes of Maryland are in favour of what is called federaliſm; but they are by no means violent. The former preſident of

the United States is in high eſtimation here; notwithſtanding which, the acts of his adminiſtration are not indiſcriminately approved. There are ſome zealous partiſans of the anti-federaliſts in Maryland; and they are to be met with even among the merchants of Baltimore. But politics do not ſeem much to occupy the country people of this ſtate. Newſpapers are neither ſo many in number, nor circulated to the ſame extent, as in Pennſylvania or New-York.

RETURN FROM ELK-TOWN TO PHILADELPHIA.

A ſtorm of rain and ſnow, with violent guſts of wind, once more detained me a whole day at an inn in Elk-Town. I had the pleaſure, however, of paſſing a part of the time with Mr. Philip Thomas, whom I had not found at home when I went to pay him a viſit on the preceding evening, and who was then returning from Philadelphia. Mr. Thomas is one of thoſe plain and kind people that a traveller is glad to meet with. I took my leave of him, with a promiſe that I would

would paſs ſome time at his houſe as ſoon as it ſhould be in my power; and perfectly convinced that he was deſirous of my viſit.

The country that lies between Elk-Town and Chriſtiana is nearly the ſame as that through which I paſſed on my route from Havre-de-Grace to Elk-Town. Chriſtiana-bridge is the only conſiderable place on this road. It is at this place that the corn that comes by land-carriage is put on board veſſels for Philadelphia. At the diſtance of ſix or ſeven miles is a ſmall town called Newport, ſituated alſo on the Chriſtiana; which enjoys a commerce of the ſame kind, but leſs conſiderable, and merely to ſupply that part of the ſtate of Delaware which lies nearer to Newport than Chriſtiana-bridge. At five miles further lies Wilmington. There are ſome parts of this road running along the Delaware and Chriſtiana (that falls into it after running through a ſmall plain tolerably well cultivated), which preſent a very fine proſpect.

Having in the beginning of my account of this part of my journey ſpoken at length of Wilmington, and the road between that town

and Philadelphia, I have not any thing to add on that ſubject, except that the heavy rains which had fallen for ſeveral days had rendered theſe roads, that are always bad enough, almoſt impaſſable.

During this little excurſion, I obſerved tranſitions from exceſſive heat to cold, ſometimes with the interval of a day, but very often in the courſe of the ſame day.

OBSERVATIONS RESPECTING THE MINERALOGY OF THE COUNTRY.

In purſuance of the plan I laid down for myſelf, of concluding the account of each of my journeys with a general outline of the mineralogy of the countries through which I paſſed, as far as the little knowledge I have of that ſubject extends; I have a few words to add on that topic.

The neighbourhood of Philadelphia to the ſouth and weſt preſents the ſame ſand and earth as on the eaſt and north. Near the town, however, and on the ſpot which ſeparates it from the Shuylkill, where that river falls into the Delaware, is found black earth

of

of a great depth, and covered with vegetation; and which, it is evident, has been recently left by the water. It has all the character of land perfectly new, and as yet ſcarcely raiſed from the bed of the river. It is conſtantly moiſt; and is frequently overflowed by the river. This land is uſed for meadows, and is in great eſtimation. It is acknowledged, however, to be extremely unhealthy. Between that and Wilmington the quality of the ſtone is quartzoſe; ochre is alſo to be found in an imperfect ſtate; and iron-ore is perceptible in moſt of the ſtones that are found on the road. Every appearance of the peninſula, that partly belongs to the ſtate of Delaware, and partly to the eaſtern ſide of Maryland, alſo proves that it is land left by the water; and that at a period not long paſt: among theſe are the quality of the ſoil, its level, and its conſtant and extreme humidity.

In this part of Maryland there are few ſtones found on the ſandy ſoil of the country. The trenching of the ground, or ſome natural accident, has in places, however, thrown

up

up a ſpecies of ſtrong gravel; in others a ſoft argillaceous ſchiſtus, and in others a ſtone mixed with iron-ore.

One of the moſt remarkable features of this peninſula is, that the rivers are divided by a ſucceſſion of ſwamps, from which the water runs toward the Delaware or the Cheſapeak, although the ground does not appear to the eye to be more elevated than the reſt of the country. There is another fact ſtill more extraordinary—the buſhes and plants which grow in theſe moraſſes are of the ſame kind as thoſe which are found on the higheſt mountains.

In the weſtern part of Maryland, ſmall round iron-ſtones are found in conſiderable quantities. The ſoil is for the moſt part ſand, which covers a compact clay. As one approaches Federal-City the country is not ſo flat, the hills are more diverſified, and are generally higher. On the ſite of Federal-City the banks and beds of the ſtream are covered with granite, like the borders of the Potowmack. The rocks that occaſion the falls of the Potowmack are free-ſtone.

The

The banks of the Potowmack, below the falls, and eſpecially from George-Town to a ſpot near Alexandria, exhibit the ſame appearance of ſucceſſive terraces as thoſe in Connecticut, of which I have already ſpoken; but not altogether ſo remarkable. The environs of Alexandria are filled with beds of large oyſter-ſhells, like thoſe that are ſo frequently found in Lower Virginia. Between Federal-City and Baltimore the ground is frequently full of iron-ore. Near the *Snowden-works* are rocks among which are ſometimes found pieces of granite and feld-ſpath. In the neighbourhood of Baltimore the ground is ſand with clay; and gravel is found conſiderably ſtrong.

Between Baltimore and Havre-de-Grace is found argillaceous ſchiſtus, and the ſoil is of clay and of a red colour. On the banks of rivers and creeks and on the ſides of mountains are maſſes of ſtone.

NATURE

NATURE OF THE WOODS.

The woods in the ſtates of Delaware and Maryland produce no other trees than thoſe that are found in Pennſylvania and Virginia. Oaks of every ſpecies abound in them, many of which are large and compact in the grain. They are uſed in carpenters' work, and furniſh a great article of exportation. The black walnut-tree, which alſo abounds in theſe woods, is much uſed by cabinet-makers; and makes beautiful furniture. Every other kind of walnut-tree is found in the country, the fruit of which, as well as the acorn, feeds an immenſe quantity of hogs that run in the woods, the fleſh of which being ſalted forms one of the moſt important articles of the exportation of theſe two ſtates. The cypreſs and cedar cover the marſhy land; where they grow very large. Almoſt all the different kinds of wood that are in great requeſt in Europe are to be found in this latitude; but more eſpecially in the weſtern part of Maryland. I have in particular noticed the tulip-tree, of a great height near Federal-

City;

City ; and remarably fine *kalmia latiflora*, from twenty to five-and-twenty feet in height, between Federal-City and Baltimore. I alſo ſaw ſome of the latter near the Potapſko, whoſe bloom, of a beautiful pale red, was beginning to appear. The wood of the *kalmia* I have been told is uſed for the axle-trees of carts, for the handles of tools, and all other purpoſes for which wood of the hardeſt kind is preferred.

END OF THE THIRD VOLUME.

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TO THE THIRD VOLUME.

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PRINTED BY T. DAVISON, LOMBARD-STREET, FLEET-STREET.

No. IV. BRIDGED.

MANNER OF CHOOSING T	POWERS OF NOMINATING TO PLACES.		RIGHT OF GIVIN A NEGATIVE.	
United States Kentucky	United States New Hampshire Massachusetts Vermont New York Pennsylvania Delaware Maryland Kentucky	Nomination and right of fixing the salaries under certain regulations.	United States New Hampshire Massachusetts Vermont New York Pennsylvania Kentucky Georgia	Negi power cert modi tio
New Hampshire Massachusetts Connecticut Rhode Island Vermont New York Pennsylvania Delaware Tennessee				
New Jersey Maryland Virginia North Carolina South Carolina Georgia	Connecticut Rhode Island New Jersey Virginia North Carolina South Carolina Georgia Tennessee	No right to any important appointment.	Connecticut Rhode Island New Jersey Delaware Maryland Virginia North Carolina South Carolina Tennessee	N negat

No. IV.

THE TABLE OF THE EXECUTIVE POWER ABRIDGED.

MANNER OF CHOOSING THEM.	DURATION.	WHEN RE-ELECTIVE.	CONSTITUTIONAL COUNCILS.	POWERS OF NOMINATING TO PLACES.	RIGHT OF GIVING A NEGATIVE.
United States Kentucky — By the electors.	United States Kentucky — Three years.	United States New Hampshire Massachusetts Connecticut Rhode Island Vermont New York New Jersey Kentucky Georgia — Unlimited.	United States Connecticut Rhode Island New York Pennsylvania Delaware Kentucky South Carolina Georgia Tennessee — No constitutional Council.	United States New Hampshire Massachusetts Vermont New York Pennsylvania Delaware Maryland Kentucky — Nomination and right of fixing the salaries under certain regulations.	United States New Hampshire Massachusetts Vermont New York Pennsylvania Kentucky Georgia — Negative power under certain modifications.
New Hampshire Massachusetts Connecticut Rhode Island Vermont New York Pennsylvania Delaware Tennessee — By the people.	New York Pennsylvania Delaware — Ditto.	Pennsylvania — Nine years in twelve.	New Hampshire Massachusetts Vermont New Jersey Maryland Virginia North Carolina — Council.	Connecticut Rhode Island New Jersey Virginia North Carolina South Carolina Georgia Tennessee — No right to any important appointment.	Connecticut Rhode Island New Jersey Delaware Maryland Virginia North Carolina South Carolina Tennessee — No negative.
New Jersey Maryland Virginia North Carolina South Carolina Georgia — By the legislature.	South Carolina Georgia Tennessee — Two years.	Delaware North Carolina — Three years in six.			
	New Hampshire Massachusetts Connecticut Rhode Island Vermont New Jersey Maryland Virginia South Carolina — A year.	Maryland Virginia — Three years in seven.			
		South Carolina — Two years in six.			
		Tennessee — Six years in eight.			

years.	By senate	during office.
of the judges.		tters of fact, but can lence, and declare the
f the judges.	By of t State	ongreſs. Some legiſla- rnor.

No. V.

THE JUDICIAL ORDER.

STATES.	MANNER OF NOMINATION.	DURATION OF OFFICE.	HOW DISMISSED.	*REMARKS.*
The United States.	By the president with the approbation of the senate.	During good behaviour.	By accusation of the house of representatives before the senate.	The salaries cannot be diminished during office.
New Hampshire.	By the governor and the council.	The superior judges during good behaviour. The justices of peace for five years.	By accusation of the house of representatives, and upon the address of the legislature to the governor.	Salaries fixed by the law.
Massachusetts.	By the governor and council.	The superior judges during good behaviour. The justices of peace for seven years.	By accusation of the house of representatives, and by the governor and council at the request of the two houses.	Gives his opinion to the governor and the council upon solemn occasions, and to the legislature in questions of law. He pronounces divorces.
Connecticut.	By the legislature.	A year.	Re-chosen in general while they are able, except in cases of misbehaviour.	The courts pronounce divorces.
Rhode Island.	By the legislature.	A year.	Re-chosen in general while they are able, except in cases of misbehaviour.	The courts judge cases of divorce.
Vermont.	By the council and the assembly.	A year, and less if necessary.	By accusation of the assembly, judged by the governor and the council.	
New York.	By the governor and the council of nomination.	During good behaviour.	Cannot be chosen above the age of sixty.	
New Jersey.	By the council and the assembly.	The superior court re-elective every seven years; the inferior every five years.	By the accusation of the assembly and judgment of the council.	
Pennsylvania.	By the governor.	During the good behaviour of the judges.	The governor has power of dismissing from, at the request of two thirds of each house, even if there be no ground of accusation.	The salaries of the judges not to be diminished while in office. They are neither to receive fees nor hold any other place of profit. The supreme court takes cognizance of divorces and pensions of widows; can supply defects in titles occasioned by acts lost or absent. No chancery.
Delaware.	By the governor.	During the good behaviour of the judges.	By accusation of the house of representatives, found by a majority of two thirds. The governor can revoke at the request of two thirds of each house, even in cases where there is no good ground of accusation.	Salaries not to be diminished while in office.
Maryland.	By the governor and the council.	During the good behaviour of the judges.	For bad conduct upon proof before a tribunal, and by the governor at the request of the assembly, by the majority of two thirds of each house.	
Kentucky.	By the governor and the senate.	During the good behaviour of the judges.	By accusation, or at the request of two thirds of each house of legislature.	Salaries not to be diminished during office.
Virginia.	By the legislature.	During the good behaviour of the judges.	By accusation of the house of delegates. The court of appeal judges officers of the general court, and *vice versa*.	
North Carolina.	By the legislature, but receive their commission from the governor.	During the good behaviour of the judges.	By accusation of the assembly or grand jury, judged by a special tribunal.	
South Carolina.	By the legislature.	During the good behaviour of the judges.	By accusation of the assembly, judged by the senate.	Salaries unchangeable during office.
Georgia.	By the legislature.	Re-elective every three years.	By the accusation of the assembly, judged by the senate.	Salaries unchangeable during office.
Tennessee.	By the legislature.	During the the good behaviour of the judges.	By the accusation of the assembly.	Cannot advise juries in matters of fact, but can give their opinion upon evidence, and declare the law.
North-West Territory of the Ohio.	By the president and the senate of the United States.	During the good behaviour of the judges.	By the accusation of the house of representatives of the United States, judged by the senate of the United States.	Salaries regulated by the congress. Some legislative powers joined to the governor.

Deacidified using the Bookkeeper process.
Neutralizing agent: Magnesium Oxide
Treatment Date: Jan. 2003

PreservationTechnologies
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